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Trappers Loggers Homesteaders And Oilmen

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TRAPPERS, LOGGERS HOMESTEADERS AND OILMEN

A History of Drayton Valley and the surrounding areas including, Buck Creek, Cynthia, Easyford, Rocky Rapids and Violet Grove.

Compiled by the Drayton Valley
District Historical Society
Box 5099
Drayton Valley, AB
T7A 1R3

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DEDICATION

The Drayton Valley District Historical Society would like to dedicate this book to everyone who has ever called the Drayton Valley area home. Everyone who ever lived in the area made their mark in some way on the area. People first came to cut the lumber, farm the land, and later to work in the oilfield. Those are the same people who became the volunteer firefighters, hockey and ball coaches, club members and in other ways supported the community. The tradition carries on today when new people arrive in our community and become involved. This book is dedicated to them also for without the people who give of their time there is no community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely thank everyone who took the time out of their busy lives to provide information to include in this book. Compiling this book has been a long and arduous task taken on by volunteers whose lives had to take precedence. There were 1123 pictures alone submitted for this book and although we could not print them all we hope you will find something familiar. The story of no person or family was purposely omitted and hopefully everyone who submitted a story will find it here. We hope that everyone will find something of interest and for those who look for mistakes we have included a few of those just for you. This was not a simple task and through the years our volunteers have come and gone. We would like to thank Larry and Nonda Gano, Jane Zander, Lyla Sleno, Jenny Harris, Eleanor Pickup, Pam Schaub, Wendy Bartlett, Chris McNelly, Chris Kitching, Dave Ellery, Colleen Andersen, Joyce Dusterhoft for all their hard and sometimes tedious work.

COMMEMORATION

Drayton Valley District Historical Society
Tony Abbot, MLA Drayton Valley-Calmar

Dear Reader,

It is my pleasure to congratulate the Drayton Valley District Historical Society on compiling a local history of our area, and providing insight through this project.

As readers of *Trappers, Loggers, Homesteaders and Oilmen* will see, our history is one of the hard-working and persevering farmers, who settled our area and provided the foundation of future growth. It is a history of early municipal leaders, who helped shape the way our area's communities look and feel today. And it is also a history of Alberta's oil and gas sector, which has provided our corner of the province with great benefits, and the potential for even greater success.

It is said that only by remembering and appreciating our past can we walk confidently into the future. Our area has much to be proud of, and a great deal to look forward to. I congratulate the Drayton Valley District Historical Society for helping our residents to see the good things we have done, and the great things we are capable of.

Best Wishes,
Tony Abbott, MLA
Drayton Valley-Calmar

Pulling Together

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On behalf of Town Council and myself, I am very honoured to be asked to provide a foreward to the historical book being prepared in our community. The Drayton Valley & District Historical Society is to be commended for undertaking this project to honour the visionary individuals who for the most part, built this community into what it is today – vibrant, progressive and family oriented.

I was raised in Drayton Valley, and have lived here for 40 years, and know many of the early families who came to our community in search of a better life. As individuals, we often fail to recognize the importance these people played in shaping the community we live in. It is only fitting that their stories be recorded and preserved for future generations to enjoy.

On behalf of the citizens of Drayton Valley, I am very pleased that this book will ensure a place in history for the founding families of our community.

Thank you.

Regards,

Moe Hamdon
Mayor
/sa

Drayton Valley Town Council

Canada's First Character City

Brazeau County

Brazeau County

P.O. Box 77, Drayton Valley, Alberta T7A 1R1 Phone (780) 542-7777
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April 16, 2004

It is a pleasure to provide greetings on behalf of Brazeau County Council for a publication that captures the stories and the important milestones in the history of the Drayton Valley area.

While Brazeau County itself is a more recent chapter in the history of the region, having been incorporated on July 1, 1988, our story has its beginnings in the people and events that helped make our communities and our land what it is today.

Documenting and celebrating our local history is important, as it is only through understanding our roots that we can help shape our future. Therefore, I would like to thank and congratulate the Drayton Valley District Historical Society for taking the initiative and working to record the story of our past for current and future generations.

I encourage everyone to take the time to read and reflect the stories of our pioneers and perhaps gain a better appreciation of who we are and what it means to call this region home.

Bart Guyon
Reeve

Offices Located At: 5516 Industrial Road, Drayton Valley

CHAPTER ONE
Our Community

A SHORT HISTORY OF DRAYTON VALLEY COMMUNITY

By Oscar Johnson

First Settlers: The first settler to come to Drayton Valley were Mr. Topstad, Mr. Wickander, Mr. Wendrum and Mr. Drake. They came in 1909. In 1910 Jay Taylor took his homestead on what is now the Guze place. The next year Mr. Dick Davis, Mr. J.L. Tucker and Jim Betts came in. In 1912 Mr. Koehre, Mr. Dodson and Mr. L.E. Plotts took their homesteads. Later Mr. Koehre moved to Saskatchewan. In 1913 settlers continued to come in. They were Mr. Dunn, Mr. Wollschlager, Mr. Blower and Mr. Morrow who came that year.

In those days it was forty-eight miles to the nearest town, called Gainford. The road was only a rough, winding, blazed trail. Mr. Cue was one who helped blaze the trail. All the travelling was done by team and wagon. The freight rate was five dollars a hundred pounds, all freighting was done in winter because the road was too soft in summer. Later a road was made to Entwistle and all livestock, cream, etc. was hauled there and shipped by rail. The mud was so deep in places that one team could not pull the wagon, so they would wait until a few people had something to ship, and they would go together to help each other out of the mud holes. Each person took their turn at hauling cream.

Mail was first hauled from Tomahawk. Later, Dr. Drake hauled it from Entwistle. It took one day to go in and one day to come back. There was mail once a week.

The first post office was one mile west of the present site on Mr. Drakes homestead. It was then called "Power House". The building was a small two roomed cabin, it contained a store and post office in one room and living quarters in the other for a family of four. They also kept a hired man and boarded the teacher.

The first school was built in 1915 on the present site. About 12 pupils attended. A few were: William Brownbill, Stanley Pickavance, Mrs. G. Kynock Sr., and Mr. Sjerdal. The first teacher was a married woman from Stony Plain. The school grew rapidly as settlers came in.

In 1915 the government started to build a dam in the North Saskatchewan River above Brownbill flats. Their intention was to supply Edmonton with electricity and also their own community. It was from this dam they called the settlement "Power House". They later abandoned the dam because World War I broke out. In 1920 "Power House" was changed to Drayton Valley. In 1928 it was moved to the present site. At first there was one small store and post office in Drake's yard. The store was kept locked, and when customers wanted to buy they would knock at the house door. Mr. Drake was Post Master and Justice of the Peace. In 1932 Mr. Morrow built a store across form the school. He later went back to his homestead and the store is now the Red and White Store.

The first school building burned down in the fall of 1932 and the present one was built. The majority of the people made a fuss because they thought the school was too big, but today if it was any smaller it could not hold all the children. The school was too small for community gatherings, so the hall was built in 1935.

The Anglican Mission was built in 1936 and the church in 1937. Miss Grove was in charge of the mission and Miss Whitaker was the nurse.

By 1934 the lumbering around Drayton Valley had become important. This brought more people; more stores were built and business grew.

The principal buildings in Drayton Valley at present are Red and White Store, Miller Bros. Store, The Ganskes store and the hall. There is also the Anglican Mission and Church, Church of God, post office, school and blacksmith shop.

The industries around Drayton Valley are mostly farming and some lumbering. The present population of Drayton Valley is fifty even.

Editor's note: Oscar Johnson wrote this essay in Grade 8 and received a mark of 90%.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Submitted by Lyla (McIntosh) Sleno
Author Unknown

Saturday night down on the farm,
The tub was put on to get water warm.
Out came the soap, out came the towels
Followed by many lusty howls!
For hair must be washed, and soap in the eyes
Accounted for lots of husky cries!!
Sometimes in Summer, a dip in the slough
Would serve as a bath, and it would make do!
But in Winter, was first the melting of snow,
Then heating it over coals aglow.
The tub of warm water on the kitchen floor,
Invitingly close to the oven door!
Then one by one were invited in
To take our turn in that tub of tin!
A scrub and a rub, and a clean nightie,
For this was Saturday night, you see!
Yes, Saturday Night, down on the farm,
One bath a week, won't do any harm!!

OUR PIONEERS

By Una (Wickander) Freund

All of you folks of Drayton Valley,
Who live in comfort here,
Just consider for a moment,
Drayton Valley's pioneers.

When there was no Drayton Valley,
From a land beyond the sea,
Three Men came to claim a homestead
In this land so wild and free.

My father was persuaded
That Alberta was the best,
So he listened to those famous words-
"Go West young man, go west!"

He built his own log cabin,
His own furniture he made,
His schooling came in handy,
He was a carpenter by trade.

He needed a companion,
Not many women out this way,
But Andrew Bray had several daughters
So he married Lucy Bray.

They worked the land together,
My father - axe in hand,
To somehow eke a living
From this unforgiving land.

No roads, no stores, no horses
Just oxen and a breaking plow,
A scythe and for haying
To feed the oxen and the cow.

With moose meat on the menu,
On potatoes too they'd dine,
If there wasn't any moose meat,
They made do with porcupine.

Ah, then the long harsh winters,
To me it has been told,
It took a giant woodpile,
To keep out that bitter cold.

No doctors and no dentists,
Did in this land reside,
No hospitals, nor medicine,
If you weren't tough, you died.

So now you folks who live here,
And struggle day by day,
Please consider for a moment,
Those brave souls who cleared the way.

BURIAL SITE OF MRS. ELIZABETH MARKHAM

All through the "Old" Drayton Valley cemetery there are many unmarked and unknown graves. one of the biggest mysteries has always been the location of the very first person interred in the cemetery, Elizabeth Markham.

The following information is supplemental to the history of the Drayton Valley Cemetery and relates to the potential site of internment of Mrs. Elizabeth Markham.

It has been determined that Mrs. Markham was interned in what is Lot 1, Block 5 of the Drayton Valley Cemetery. 0.025 acres of homestead land being transferred, by Mr. Markham, to the Municipal District of Rocky Rapids for the purpose of establishing a community cemetery.

Unfortunately, early records relating to pre 1930 burial sites with the cemetery are no longer available. However, through personal remembrances of family, friends, local "old-timers" and some general assumptions provided by staff of the Alberta Surveyors Association it has been possible to narrow down the actual location.

Known Information: Mrs. Markham passed away and was interned in what is now the older section (Lot1, Block5) of the cemetery on December 17, 1916. This was almost four years prior to the cemetery being surveyed. Mr. Markham, her husband, arranged with the Municipal District of Rocky

Rapids to utilize 0.025 acres of his land as a cemetery site and it was subsequently fenced off for that purpose. Legal limitations concerning the transfer of the land, by Mr. Markham, delayed the survey and setting up of the original 72 plots until 1920. Although the cemetery, along the northern perimeter, just inside the original barbed-wire fence that separated the cemetery from what is now 51st Avenue. This was within the same section where Mr. Lewis Davis was interned in 1922.

Assumptions: (Provided by the Alberta Surveyors Association) At the time Mr. Farncomb was contracted by the M.D. of Rocky Rapids to survey the original cemetery site he would have been aware of the existing grave. Visual signs would still be evident and it is logical to assume the M.D. would have instructed Mr. Farncomb to contact Mr. Markham for particulars regarding the overall site and it's location. As the survey would in no way have been encumbered by any fear of encroachment on land owned by other individuals, Mr. Farncomb would have ample opportunity to set out the original 72 plots in such a manner to ensure Mrs. Markham's site was included. As it appears the basic reasoning behind the establishment of the cemetery centered upon Mrs. Markham, it is reasonable to assume Mr. Farncomb would have been informed, by Mr. Markham, upon whose land he was working, of the circumstances relating to his wife's internment.

Conclusions: There is no reason to doubt the personal remembrances of family and friends regarding the general location of Mrs. Markham's grave. According to the Alberta Surveyor's Association it is logical to assume Mr. Farncomb's survey work would either be built around, or at least encompass any existing burial site on the land.

Cross referencing the Town of Drayton Valley's 1964 plan for Lot 1, Block5, with the original 1920 site plan narrows the search down to Plot 71. The plausibility of this location is further enhanced by the fact that Mr. Lewis Davis was interned in the same section of Lot 1, Block 5 (1964 plan) appear to have all name designations listed, and is of a much later period.

As the original 0.025 acres was fenced off and it is known that Mrs. Markham was interned along the cemetery's north-eastern border, "beside the fence", Plot 71 N is no doubt the site of her internment.

Furthermore, Plot 71N is also the only location in that area of the cemetery where two unmarked graves exist. (Due to the fact that there are two unmarked graves, side by side, it is also quite possible that if Mrs. Markham's infant child was near full term and passed away prior to Mrs. Markham, the second site would be that of the infant.

THE FIRST SCHOOL BUS IN DRAYTON VALLEY

Written by John Getzinger

In the year of 1950, the Stony Plain School Division awarded myself, John Getzinger, with a contract to operate a thirty-six passenger school bus to transport children from the Laurel and Rocky Rapids schools to Drayton Valley, where the school division was beginning to centralize.

When the first school bus went into operation, the roads in Drayton Valley and the surrounding area were not yet gravelled. When it rained, travel on the roads was almost impossible. Large mud holes were left on the bare dirt roads, often delaying the school bus for several hours. The dirt roads always proved to be somewhat of a challenge; the large holes left by the rain only managed to get bigger and deeper from one spring to the next.

The cold winter months often posed a problem. A snowplow was something unheard of at the time. During the winter of 1951, there was a long cold snowstorm which left the roads almost impossible to travel on. Snow banks ranged from four to six feet high throughout the county, isolating the school bus for one week until a local resident took his cat and bull-dozed a narrow trail through the drifted snow right through to highway 16.

In 1952, the Stony Plain School Division once again approached me, and asked me to put another school bus on the road to bring children to school in Drayton Valley from Easyford.

I remember in 1956, while I was taking the children home one afternoon, the road north of Drayton Valley upon which I was travelling was in such bad condition that the bus, as well as many other vehicles, were stranded for hours. Not far from the bus was a bread truck, which was in the same predicament as all the others. As day grew into night, the children on the bus began to get very hungry, as it was already past supper time. Remembering the bread truck, I went over and asked the driver if he had anything for the children to eat. The next thing I remember was seeing a large drawer full of doughnuts, which the truck driver graciously gave to the children. His kindness was greatly appreciated that night, as it was getting on to be past midnight when the last of the children were unloaded from the bus.

There were many other experiences too numerous to mention that have found a place in my memory from the first school bus route, many years ago.

THE FIFTIES AND SIXTIES: DRAYTON VALLEY AS A DOCTOR REMEMBERS IT

Written by Hugh MacLure

At the end of, 1956, we arrived in Drayton Valley in an ambulance. Dr. Brooks had asked Dr. Robt. Henderson, an orthopedic surgeon in Edmonton, to meet the CNR train from Montreal, and sent the town ambulance to bring us to our new home.

Four weeks earlier we had been perspiring in the humid 40 degree Celsius temperature of Freetown, West Africa. We travelled back to England by boat, while the Suez crisis brewed. The eight day voyage was followed by two weeks of confusion as we made the arrangements to emigrate to yet another continent. At last we settled on board the "Empress of Canada" with our three boys, two of whom were quite glum at the thought of leaving their friends and their soccer in England.

After a hostile encounter with a customs official (? a founding member of the BQ ?) in Montreal, we boarded the train as darkness fell. The PQ farms gave place to the granite out-crops and freezing lakes of the Canadian Shield, and sheets of ice formed between the carriages, (as in the film Dr. Zhivago, which we saw some years later). By the time the big skies and grain elevators of Alberta appeared, the boys were getting hard to entertain.

Boredom, however, had not been much of a problem throughout the trip because of the weird behaviour of our fellow-passengers. Our train seemed to have been invaded by a drunken mob of happy lunatics who sang, danced, imbibed and vandalised their way across the true north strong and free. Was this really standard behaviour for the inhabitants of this great country? We learned, years later, that we were in the middle of a train-load of Edmonton Eskimo supporters. Apparently a certain Mr. Parker had scored some vital points in the last minute of the Grey Cup final against the Allouettes. Seven days after arriving in Drayton Valley, the temperature dropped to thirty degrees below (on the old scale), which was a hundred and twenty degrees colder than Freetown, W. Africa. We did some very hurried shopping for Canadian type winter clothes.

We were quickly initiated into oil-field life, learning a new language in the process. Words like muskeg, freeze-up, road-ban, mouse-hole, tongs, tool-push, service-rig and skid-shack all took on new meanings. I remember too some of my earlier medical experiences with the language, for instance an urgent call from a young mother at 1 a.m. to say she had just discovered her baby's head had "cradle-cap".(What in the world did she mean? Was the child wedged in its cot by its head?). I rapidly got acquainted with the town's alcoholics, starting with one who was blissfully freezing to a contented death in a snowdrift. One young man called (in the middle of the night of course) to say he was in the process of gassing himself to death in his kitchen, and was I interested? I hustled round to his shack and found both the oven and the patient going strong, the patient resting his head comfortably on a cushion by a wide-open window. A few weeks later this same character stumbled through our back-door and fell down the stairs into the basement, where we looked after him for a few days until sober. He began to come to our Bible study group, and years later we saw him in Vernon, B.C., where he was working, sober and with his act together. I wish we could say the same of some of the others we knew.

The early days of the Pembina oil-field are hard to forget, with twelve hundred or so active rigs in the area. Our clinic saw countless accidents; I think the record was fourteen WCB cases in a day and I'm sure Dr. Waugh's clinic was equally busy. We got to know many of the specialists in Edmonton, including the famous Dr. Harry Weinlos. In fact, I stayed with him on one occasion for a sleepless forty eight hours as I followed him on his rounds. He drove a beat-up old car, to the shame of his more conventional relatives, and I spent some time push- starting it in the Arctic cold, freezing my ears in the process. For the next few years, Harry Weinlos's first words to me, whenever we met, were, "How are your ears?!' He was not the only specialist who helped me make the transition from jack-of-all trades in West Africa to general practice in Canada. As it turned out, I found the experiences of having had to work in isolation in Africa helped me, in some ways, to deal with emergencies in Drayton Valley ninety miles away from specialist help.

Those were the days of mud and gravel roads, when we all wore "Drayton Valley Oxford's summer and winter, and the main street was lined with mud-caked trucks and nineteen foot cars with homicidal hood ornaments, and cracked windshields. In due course, we acquired a Mini Morris for short trips and house-calls, and soon learned why such tiny cars with tiny heaters were not a la mode in Alberta. At thirty degrees below zero, it would take the trip from house to medical office before the back wheels would thaw and start to turn on the ice covered road. This gave rise to many opportunities for nearby smart Alecs to practice their wit in addition to such questions as, "Where's the one for the other foot?"

For several years, all the doctors in the town treated animals as well as people. One morning, Dr.

Waugh sadly told me he had lost his first mother in child birth. Before I could reply he added, "But the calf is doing O.K." I spent many a Sunday afternoon anaesthetizing dogs of all sizes before extracting porcupine quills from their noses and mouths.. I learned that an eighty pound German Shepherd takes three times the human adult dose of Pentothal to put him out. I can think of many other episodes, but lack of space confines me to head-lines, e.g. The Cat's Birthday, The Beaver with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, The Trumpeter Swan with Alzheimer Disease, etc.

In due course, our boys left school and went on to the University of Alberta where they divided their time between study, swimming and gymnastics. One year I, David, Paul and Andrew all took our Bronze Medallion tests together in the town swimming pool.

We had a small skid-shack in the trees by Wabamun Lake and used to go out there on days off. We sailed a home made "Enterprise" class dinghy. To this day, the smell of swamp poplars and pine needles evoke some wonderful memories. Both David and Paul got involved in canoeing, and David, along with two others from Drayton Valley, were in the Alberta centennial team that in 1967, raced the big Chestnut canoes across Canada from Rocky Mountain House to Quebec, travelling the route of the early explorers in reverse across the water-ways of Canada. They paddled three thousand miles with only eighteen miles of portage. David wore out ten pairs of jeans that year sliding across the width of the canoe to change sides . He earned enough to put himself through university for the next year doing it.

The years from 1956 to 1970 were particularly memorable for us, coming as they did between years in Africa, in conditions as far removed from the rough and ready affluence of oil-patch Alberta as one could possibly imagine. For myself, perhaps more so than the rest of my family, the "best of times" far out weighed the "worst of times" during those years. Particularly was this true in three areas.

Firstly those were the "golden years" of general practice in rural Canada. When I see the obstacles, political, economic and professional, which young doctors have to overcome today, I thank God He let me practice in the dinosaur era when physicians with experience had great freedom to take responsibility for cases which today would have to be referred. I know I am not alone in this feeling of having practiced in the hey-day of general practice. During much of our time in Drayton Valley, the average age in the town was about ten years. I delivered over 1300 babies there, and for several years the hospital had the best statistics for neo-natal mortality in the province for facilities of comparable size. I still frequently meet the "babies" I once delivered, or their children, in The Bay or Sears in Edmonton.

One could go on and on with medical anecdotes, but I do not have the advantage that a vet, such as James Herriot has, in that his patients do not sue. Of course, fitting a busy practice into one's other interests made life complicated too. We used to go to Jasper for the day to ski, leaving at 5 a.m. and returning after the ski-lift shut down. One day I'd planned to ski with Al McKillop, our next door neighbour, whose blood group was a negative. The hospital called as I was about to get up, as one of the other doctors was asking for help with a patient with a ruptured spleen. The ever-willing Al was called upon to surrender some of his unique blood and after a touchy hour in the O.R, we set off to Jasper. My neighbour skied vigorously for six hours without a problem, (as far as I could see, trying to keep up with him), and the patient made a good recovery, minus one spleen, going on to give birth to a healthy baby four months later.

Secondly, we found Drayton Valley to be a warm and friendly place, though at first we battled the assumption that 'Brits' were likely to be snobs with an incomprehensible sense of humour. We made a host of new friends, though many of these were promptly transferred to some other place in the oil business.

Muriel became active in the Toast-mistress organization and hospital auxiliary, as well as coping with the demands of three active boys and a husband whose hours were often unpredictable. We started a community choir and sang easy 'pop' cantatas at Easter and Christmas. This was one of the high-lights of our years in the oil-patch, (in spite of the problems involved in trying to render, or rend, the "Hallelujah Chorus" on a spinet organ).

Both David and Paul took part in various canoe races in the N. Saskatchewan river, apart from the cross-Canada centennial race, and in those years we drove many miles along the back roads around Drayton Valley, the long-suffering car loaded with canoes. We put the paddlers in the water and picked them up Later, downstream. Before the Centennial race, I sometimes jogged in the evenings with the two Davids in the team, (Maclure and Ellery). They would burden themselves with twelve pounds of nails apiece, and wear rig-boots. I panted to keep up with them, stripped to the bare essentials. Later both Davids and our Paul competed for Alberta in the Quebec ice-boat race, crossing the half-frozen St. Lawrence more or less in the boat or on the ice-floes.

Thirdly, we were active among the evangelical community. We started a regular weekly home Bible-study group and when we left in 1969 there were ten or more going on in the town.

We left Drayton Valley in the fall of 1969, and moved to Edmonton, where all three boys were nearing the end of their courses in dentistry, medicine and teacher training. I did two short residences at the Royal Alec, one in paediatrics and one in obstetrics and gynae. Next year we went to Uganda and were there when sergeant Idi Amin made his over-night leap up the promotion ladder to field-marshal.

Since leaving Uganda we have lived in the Okanagan Valley until our youngest son died. We then moved back to Edmonton to be near Paul and his family. David meanwhile found work in Australia as a dentist.

From the Okanagan we made half a dozen work-trips back to W. Africa or Haiti, (where we once more found ourselves in the middle of a revolution. Our friends suggested we should next try Libya or Iran to unseat a couple more dictators).

Now the cycle is being repeated. We have three grandsons at university, with the addition this time of a granddaughter of sixteen. Paul continues to teach at Drayton Valley and Audrey to work with ultra-sound at the D.V. hospital two days a week.

While in B.C. I had a book published, mostly about our time in Africa and Haiti. This went into a second printing in 1996. In Canada, a "best-seller" is a book selling 5,000 or more copies. We are almost half-way there. When we have unloaded a few more copies of "Letters From The White Man's Grovel', I know I will want to write about our time in the Pembina oil-field, where we were introduced to Canada with its many blessings and problems. That little town southwest of Edmonton will always have a very large place in our memories and in our hearts.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS I HAVE KNOWN

Written by Edith Deby

In this day of T.V., recorders and tapes, it is hard to understand the impact of the Christmas Concert on isolated communities forty years ago.

For people starved for entertainment, what could be more exciting than a concert where your child was performing?

Teachers in Drayton Valley were fortunate to have the community hall available for practice and for the concert itself. We were also fortunate to have musicians who gave generously of their time. Chief among these was Sven (Swanny) Jonzon.

A local substitute for Santa Claus fooled only the very youngest. The chairman of the school board was, of course, given the honour of being chair-person.

As I write this, parts of those long ago concerts flit across my memory. There was the carol solo by a young girl who later in life gained recognition for a beautiful voice; the hilarious skit by five boys who gave their idea of the disasters that could befall the driver of a jalopy, with two kitchen chairs as the only stage props; the square dance by eight ten-year-olds in which one lad, the son of non-dancing parents, became so exhilarated by his freedom that he almost swung his little partner off the stage; the boys who practised so assiduously on the newly acquired gym mats that their performance called for more than one encore; the little girl who did a memorable rendition of the Sailor's Hornpipe in sailor's dress uniform; and all the plays known as dialogues.

No teacher of that era will ever forget the relief when the last guests had departed, and the Christmas Concert was over for another year.

DISCOVERY WELL

25 YEARS 1953 TO 1978

The Pembina discovery well was drilled by Mobil Oil Canada approximately 3½ miles west and 1½ miles south of the Violet Grove town site. Drilling began on February 23, 1953, and ended just eighty eight days later. The well was drilled to a total depth of 9, 425 feet. The oil-bearing Cardium sandstone was encountered between 5,310 to 5,370 feet.

Discovery Well crew at flare pit 1953

The well was the first in Canada to show evidence of oil in the Cardium sandstone formation.

Tests taken during drilling of the well indicated oil potential but poor production rates.

A process new to the Canadian oil industry – developed by Amoco – called hydraulic fracturing – was used to improve the productivity. This process involves pumping fluid and sand into the oil-bearing zone under high pressure to fracture the rock and provide a channel for oil to flow into the wellbore.

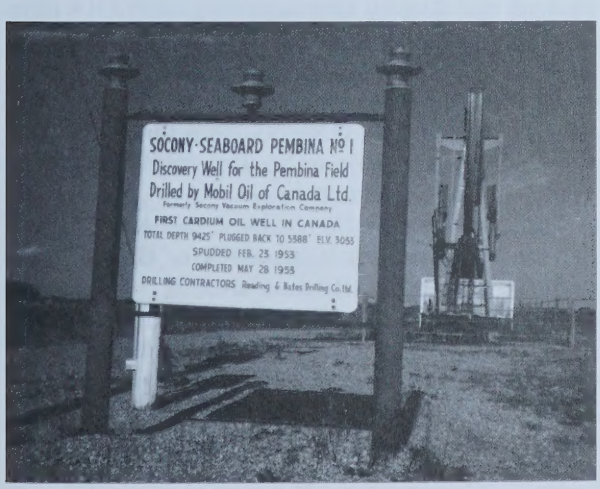
The initial flow rate immediately following the fracturing treatment was 450 barrels of oil a day. Oil production has since declined to 21 barrels of oil a day and 100 barrels of water a day. In its twenty-five year life, the discovery well has produced 595,000 barrels of oil.

Socony Seaboard Pembina No. 1 Discovery Well

OIL COMES TO D.V. AREA

Written by Cal Bartlett

In the fall of 1951 geologists came to the D.V. area and to Slim Matheson looking to rent horses to explore the banks of the Brazeau River and the Saskatchewan River for indications of oil. Maynard Allen brought these people to Slim Matheson for horses and they also rented mine, Cal Bartletts.



Socony – Seaboard Pembina No. 1 Discovery Well for the Pembina Field

They were gone about a week. Slim Matheson was their guide as he had trapped fur through the area. In 1952, the geologists brought a 4-wheel drive truck and got Maynard Allen as a guide, taking an old wagon trail to Blue Rapids. Small streams had pole culverts built over them and these geologists named them roller bearing culverts. They started seismographing through the country. A well was drilled for oil near Rocky Rapids. In February, of 1953 , they started on Lsd.4-16-48-8 or Dave Glen's mother-in-law's homestead. It was brought to production in May of 1953. I, Cal Bartlett, saw the first oil come out. Jim Warke was engineer in charge. The well was brought in by the first sandfracing in the Pembina field, named after a small postoffice a mile west of the well. Herb Rutz was the first operator.

LOOKING BACK FROM GUMBO TO PAVEMENT

Written by Gordon Pickup

My first memory of Drayton Valley shows through the eyes of a four and a half year old. I remember the Drayton Valley Hotel being under construction. I remember this because my dad and I tried to sleep in the area, all studs and sawdust, which would one day be the lower part of Valley Drugs. There was sawdust everywhere. Workmen, carting lumber and tools all night, cursed the night away. There was no sidewalk in front of the building and vehicles parked right up next to the exterior wall. A pointy nosed Studebaker looked like it was coming right into the area my dad was fixing up for his store.

Some little time later, a tractor was stuck in main street in the vicinity of what would one day become Molnar's Plumbing. Not just stuck, that tractor. Imagine the rear wheels in up past the axles – stuck.

Home for us in those early days, as it was for many others in those early days, was a "cabin" in the D.V. cabins. Small, constricting, cold on chilly days, hot on hot ones, the cabins where shelter at its most basic definition. The laneways between the cabins were narrow, barely wide enough for a truck, but they proved to be fine areas for children to play. Play, that is, until the Anderson family got the first television set in that area. Laneways were abandoned for fuzzy, snow-filled pictures of Howdy Doody ..."It's Howdy Doody time, it's Howdy Doody time ..." To save us from that tedium, The

Lone Ranger won every week, his perilous escapades made the laneways safer to drive in.

How long we were in the DV Cabins, I don't remember. We moved sometime in that period to the house that Tom Ross and Bill Mustard built for my folks. 4904-52 Avenue became home for me for a number of years, in fact, until I left home to go to college. The big old propane tank in the side yard served a number of purposes for the children of the neighbourhood: horse (most often), truck, army tank, anything our fertile minds could conceive it to be. It was cold in the summer, and we delighted in playing Dinky toys around its base; what intricate roadways we made – and no tractors got stuck there.

One morning, when we awoke, there was an oil derrick over by the skating rink (where the tennis court is now). The Christmas tree is still there, I think, but imagine the shock to see that derrick there, erected overnight. Other mornings I remember men who had nowhere else to sleep had spent the night in the big culverts along the wall of Ken Wardlow's Hardware. The men would crawl painfully out of one end or the other of the culvert, stretch, and head off in search of work or a better place to stay the next night.

Do you remember how travelling salesmen would come all the way out from Edmonton (a real endurance trip in those days before Hwy 57 (now 22) was paved) just to get one of June Chow's steaks or his Chinese food in his restaurant in the hotel? I remember June as a round-faced friendly fellow, always warm and inviting. Or do you remember Henry the barber's offer of a free haircut? Take him up on it and you'd sport a Mohawk hairdo for a long time. Henry always amazed everyone: sober or drunk. Henry would do a customer's hair in only a couple of minutes. A squirming kid, a drunken man, or an irascible teen: no one was in Henry's barber chair for long. For sure, no one had to wait long in his little shop in the hotel. Good thing too, for there certainly wasn't much room to wait; it was a little shop where the current desk of the D.V. Hotel is now.

I remember the men roofing on that steep incline of the United Church. My dad was up there, and I went home to bed many a night worried that I wouldn't have a father in the morning, that he would have slid down that precipitous incline and we'd have a funeral the next day. He was close to the church, after all. (it sorta made sense.)

But before that church building, the United Church met for a while in the gymnasium of the school (now called the Eldorado, I think). Rosa Walters led the singing, I think, boisterously. Other times, the UC met in the Scout Hall. And, at any rate, the Christmas concerts were always held in that Scout Hall. Did every other mother in Drayton Valley force their reluctant progeny to perform as mine did? That idea did occur to many of us enforced performers each year.

School was something else again. School for those of us in Miss Polanski's Grade One class was unique. Due to the popio epidemic and the exploding population of the town, we met Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Our grade one building removed from the rest of the school buildings, was reportedly a school-converted-to-a-granery-reconverted-to-a-school. It had well worn oiled floors and a pot-bellied stove at the back. Miss Polanski taught with her mittens on. Her students wore their full winter regalia as we moved toward the front of the classroom. Those at the back shucked all the excess clothes just to avoid melting. Every ten or fifteen minutes, we would move one seat forward, donning more and more clothes as we moved toward the front of the room. One poor girl, Claudette, found the cold too much and wet her pants. Students were reluctant to move into her seat, and the rest of us watched as that narrow yellow rivulet wended its way toward the stove: at least it would be warm.

When we finally got into the big building, we started at one end and left, years later, from the other. Mrs. Wiuff and Mr. Gray had the Grade Six classes in the old square building. And even in Grade Six, we would have to gather with the other students to listen to the broadcast of "let's Sing" every week. Some of us would. And later, for diversions, we would skin the cat or hang by our knees on the hitching post in front of Getzinger's store.

The Associated Commercial Travelers (ACT) variety shows were always fun. I remember Paul McLure and Audrey Getzinger singing "(All I have To Do Is) Dream." (I've loved that song ever since.) Or Marianne Kaarsmaker and I had to do "Red River Valley." (I don't think either of us have loved that song since.) ACT Nights were fun, especially for the prize winners, or so I'm told. The prizes always managed to elude me.

Over at the new high school, students went in the south end of Frank Maddock in Grade 7 and came out the north end in Grade 12. There were boys' entrances and girls' entrances of sorts. The boys had to go around the end of the auditorium. All winter long, the bullies would line up some distance from the east wall of the gym and fire ice-hardened snow balls at those who slid furtively along the wall, hoping desperately not to get hit or hurt. Those missiles hurt a great deal.

The year I was in Grade 9, on November 22,

1963, I remember Miss White, pale as her name, being assisted from the principal's office. Word spread that Miss White was a cousin of JFK's and a pall spread over the school. Where were you on November 22, 1963?

How about the time that shop teacher Mr. Courtney was demonstrating the wrong way to sharpen a chisel? The chisel whizzed out of his hand and headed toward the floor, nailing his shoe to the floor. We all watched with held breath while Mr. C. undid his shoe and extracted his foot, sans sock: the chisel ended up between his big and second toes. Lucky man. Not only that, but it taught us all a valuable lesson: take your sock off too, when the chisel has it anchored to the floor. I remember too, how another teacher, Mr. Roger Murray, always made sure that in his phys ed class he was one of the team captains and that he had first pick of all the best players so that his team would win. And then, if by chance, we "losers" happened to be ahead, Mr. Murray would cheat openly so that his team would be top dog again. Don't get me wrong: I loved Mr. Murray and all his quirks.

Then, at the outdoor swimming pool: how about all those biting bugs in the water? A pleasant summer's evening swim could be ruined quickly enough with those around. Or in the winter, how about the bite of the January evening as we plied our way around the skating rink, music supplied by Bill Norquay. He wasn't too good at stopping fights or illicit games of Red Rover, but he knew his Strauss waltzes. (I love them still.) He was always patient enough to teach another kid how to play cribbage, coaxing, coaching, never taking unfair advantage. And at the end of a night of crib and skating, oooh, those splinters in the benches inside the warming hut hurt! And always where it was embarrassing to pull them out – had to wait to get home to do that.

Or on the ski hill: Don McKenzie always made sure that we foot-packed it, sidestepping all the way, just in time for Leonard Urchyshyn to come and show us all how to ski. Or Dr. McLure. Or George Burns (DV's version, complete with the more famous one's requisite cigar.) Beautiful skiers all – after the hill was packed. The rest of us – Marion McKenzie, Cheryl Savage, my father, brother, me – were all too tired to look like Stein Erickson, the ski-style guru of the day. To this day, I think my father has been the only one to die on the DV ski hill; with almost all the doctors in town there that day, he made one run and collapsed at the bottom. The doctors and others could do little because the toboggan had to come up the hill to the parking lot so he could be transported to town; they could not do their resuscitation maneuvers on him while the toboggan was pulled uphill. For the record, that was in January, 1970.

The 733 Air Cadets met in the gymnasium of the old Frank Maddock High School (now H.W. Pickup Junior High). Among other things, we did drill and small arms fire there. For the small arms markmanship, we would pull heavy backstops from under the stage and fire away at targets mounted there. Sometime later we found out that the lead was splashing out the open ends of the backstops and embedding itself in the walls of the gym. Needless to say, the custodian, Mr. McManus, was none too pleased.

The other big element for small arms markmanship in my life in DV was the gun club. I often wonder just how many young people's lives did Earl Thompson touch as he would teach the fundamentals of firearms "saf-ety" (as he called it.) Or how many kids did Louis Regnier patiently help count up their scores on their target? A wonderful and warm group of adults led us each week. Monday nights with the gun club have always been special memories for me.

My dad would often take me out to the new housing areas in Drayton and show me where the streets were going to go, how the sewer lines went in. Even yet, I look at new subdivisions with a tinge of misty-eyed awe. Perhaps it was fitting that I returned summers between college years to work on the water and sewer lines for the town of DV. I remember warmly Rudy Merschel, Bob Johnson, Frank Harrison and others with their patience with me in one water or sewer line or the other. Jules Parenteau, Robin Johanneson – the whole crew kept ahead of the ongoing development of Drayton. Little do so many know just what it took to get their water to them or their sewage away. I do, and it's fun to remember. (No, it's not a crappy memory.)

Or how about the summer (1967?) when the fires out at Lodgepole necessitated the R.C.M.P. moving in and conscripting the able bodied males from the pool hall, the beer parlour, and later the drive-in? I remember hearing stories of men trying to get away from the drive-in by scaling the walls only to descend into the open arms of waiting officers. The town seemed dead without all the men; even the grade 12 classroom seemed empty that spring. Do you remember how hard it was to keep the cars clean with all the ash in the air? Or how we had to have the windshield wipers on to keep our windshields clear? Or for those who were out fighting the fires, how deadened our souls became to come upon another animal carcass in the charred underbrush? Or the faces of the men who had to kill the unfortunate animals, down but not dead – those

men's faces I will never forget. Nor will I forget how, on cleanup patrol, we fought our way into a hotspot, tanks on our backs, tank truck along as well, and finally convinced the hotspot to cool. Then when we turned around, we had to fight a combined number of hotspots so we could get back out. Being out at that fire was an experience, but not one I wish ever to repeat.

There are many things I remember about Drayton Valley, the trailer courts, the opening of the golf course, the toboggan hill out by Mr. Peck's place, an earlier toboggan hill at the east end of the bridge over the river put us too close to the road to be safe, the heavy rains for our 1967 Canada Day celebrations, rejoicing with my father as more and more of the town moved from gumbo lanes to pave streets and avenues, lots of things come to mind. Not one of those things comes to mind without remembering many fine and affable people too. It is the people who make a place somewhere to call "home", and I remember Drayton as one of my homes.

From Drayton, I went to college in Camrose, then to U of A where I obtained by B.Ed. in 1972. I have taught everything from Grade 2 to adult, mostly English courses, teaching in Caroline, Rocky Mountain House, Winterburn, Namao, and Spruce Grove. I married MaryFrances Bjorgum of Kingman, Alberta, who had a successful nursing career spanning several years. We have four children, Christian, Jordan, Michal Elaine, and our after thought, Eden Hope. Several of my short stories have been published and/or aired over CBC Radio; a novel is currently under consideration with Atheneum Books, New York.

SKID SHACK CITY

By Harold Hilliard
Star Weekly
Toronto, April 16, 1955

With the discovery of oil pool that dwarfs all others, hordes of people poured into an Alberta valley, sardine-packed in a sprawling cluster of shacks and trailers. Drayton Valley, Alberta, sits atop the biggest oil pool in the New World, a pool big enough to fuel half the homes in Canada. But, Drayton Valley's country-turned-urban schoolhouse is still using old-fashioned pot-bellied wood stoves to heat two of its eight rooms.

It's not a sign of poor management, but rather of the discovery of so much "black gold" so fast the hordes of people pouring into this new land of Midas-like riches haven't had time to provide houses, let alone proper schools and stores and a host of other needs. But in the embryo is a model, planned "town of tomorrow." In its final form, it should be one of the west's prettiest communities. It will be in striking contrast to the raw frontier settlement of today. About 5,000 new arrivals are sardine-packed into sprawling clusters of "skid shacks," trailers and under other temporary roofs in the makeshift communities for miles around.

Western Trailer Park behind the old hotel

"Probably never before have so many people of munificent means crowded into so small a total living area as here in "skid shack city," one visitor tartly observed. Canada never has experienced oil excitement like that centred in Drayton Valley, located in the foothills of the Rockies, 125 miles east of the vacation paradise of Jasper. The reason is that previous oil finds at Leduc, Redwater and Woodbend have been dwarfed by the infant Pembina field, of which Drayton Valley is the hub.

Here in less than two years, a petroleum pool has been proven whose wealth is measured in billions of dollars. The extent of the field still has not been measured. But already it has a cash-in value about equal to that of Canada's biggest mining enterprise, Sudbury's nickel bonanza. That's enough to buy three railway systems of the magnitude of the CNR.

Yet, in a land where $1,000,000.000 is so glibly mentioned, there are no easy millions to be made, except for the oil companies and the provincial government. The latter owns the mineral rights and pocketed a quick million just for signing away the right to drill for oil the few hundred acres of the Drayton Valley town site. Throughout the field, the provinces take from oil rights is many times that. Lush earnings also are being banked by the big oil companies lucky enough to buy these rights before they knew if they would find pay oil.

A Search for Zest

As for the little guys, a few who get here early and start successful businesses should do well. Three farmers who sold the barley and oats fields for the new town site banked enough to retire on comfortable, but not lavish incomes, as the province stepped in to outlaw land speculation. For the rest, fat pay cheques for "rough necking" with the oil derrick crews are the prime enticement.

It's not a sign of poor management, but of workers, who provided most of the steam behind the rush into the field, which reached its peak in the two months before last Christmas. The human flood was so great at one time that for several days, around the clock, there was a traffic jam backed up for 30 miles along the only road in from Edmonton. This road, and an airline which uses an airstrip constructed before the first town building went up, are Drayton Valley's only lifelines with "outside." No railway taps an area, which, up to now, has eked out a rather lean existence for a handful of homesteaders, loggers and trappers.

The "roughneck" in general, is a foot-loose type, who lives gipsy-like, moving from drilling job to drilling job. He spends a few months at each site and sends his children to the closest school. I met one family whose children have attended eight different schools in two years. So the "roughnecks" arrived in Drayton Valley, as is customary in a new oilfield, towing their own houses on wheels. Some are trailers. Among them are luxurious four and five-room, $5,000 and $6,000 models.

Some houses are modest "skid shacks," which are simply frame structures, small enough to load on a two-wheel trailer or on the back of a truck. Dimension range from 8 x 10 feet and up. They usually are meant to house no more than a man and wife. In Drayton Valley, where roofs were so scarce at the height of the excitement that men were sleeping in road culverts, a "skid shack" is still a mansion. As many as 16 men slept in a single shack this past winter.

The trailer and "skid shack" represent about 99 per cent of Drayton Valley's housing today. They will predominate for many months to come until permanent homes are built. A typical "skid shack" dweller is the oilfield's only physician, Dr. T. Brooks. He's a New Canadian from England, where he gave up a lucrative practice to seek "zest in life, as well as a living," he explained. He was in Yelowknife and Grande Prairie before coming here.

Dr. Brooks, his wife and five children lived eight months in a 8 x 22 skid building, one end of which was partitioned as his office. The pressure eased when the first hotel, a $350,000. structure, was opened in January and rented him space for his office. He responds to calls across a wide area of the oilfield, which so far is served only by pioneer mud-surfaced roads. These are constantly chewed up by a steady stream of heavy trucks hauling oil out to railhead, or delivering drilling rigs to new well sites. To date he has broken the under-frame of his station-wagon four times. He never makes a call but he expects to be pulled out from the morass by a farm or oil company tractor.

Dr. Brooks also is the local coroner. And he is a favourite among "roughnecks" for the way he climbs blithely to the top of oil derricks to investigate the circumstances of an accident. He thinks the arrangement he has with an Edmonton flying company is probably unique in Canada. It holds an aircraft in constant readiness as an ambulance, to pick up emergency cases at the local airstrip and speed them to hospital. Some patients can't withstand the bumpy ride over the 27 miles of secondary road which leads to the main highway to Edmonton.

While the "roughneck" class is accustomed to portable homes, others look forward to moving into permanent dwellings. These are the ones who are pouring into open businesses and provide regular staff to operate the producing oil wells, a new pipeline system and oil servicing industries. A boom in house construction is expected this summer.

Hotel Builder's Bad Guess

In anticipation, Cliff Vandergrift, world's champion calf roper and ranch owner at Turner Valley, has arrived with a fleet of trucks and tractors to establish a gravel company. The mud in this country "is stickier than anywhere else in the world," he maintains, in describing the difficulties of hauling heavy loads where roads have been unable to keep pace with the lightning-like progress. One day he got three tractors stuck trying to rescue one from the gumbo.

Elmer Johnson, Edmonton contractor, who has built about 30 schools throughout the province, thinks so well of the town's future that he has located his base of operations here. One of the first arrivals to provide a local service was T. W. Pue of Edmonton, who started a weekly newspaper a year ago.

His editor is Art Playford from California, who also is a part-time preacher and carpenter. He hasn't been able to find room to bunk his family, so he commutes daily from nearby Rocky Rapids. Because of the lack of an office, jail or room to sleep, the RCMP provides policing by remote control from Entwistle, 30 miles distant.

Competition is so keen to locate new businesses that 35 applications were received to build the first hotel. Two builders actually started excavating. When the first got the edge by starting to pour footings, the other quit - much to the owner's later disgust. The hotel, which opened in January, with 43 rooms, was too small the day it accepted first guests. Already an extension is planned.

Nest of Schoolhouses

The Pembina oilfield is so large, perhaps 40 by 40 miles in extent already, that a number of other communities besides Drayton Valley expect to see their own growth sprees. One enterprising type, confident a new town will mushroom where a new road will intersect a main highway, already is erecting a hotel there. Behind it he's building an aircraft runway in the expectation it will be used as a stopping point on a proposed extension to Jasper of the daily Edmonton - Drayton Valley air service. It is probably the first time anywhere an "airline hotel" has been built in advance of the arrival of the airline, or where an airstrip has been built to help attract trade to a new hotel.

Many barnyards for miles around are temporary town sites. Oil companies have bought farmhouses to convert into drilling headquarters and offices. Oilfield workers have arrived with wives and families, and trailers and skid shacks, to park beside the farmhouse. These barnyard communities range in size from a few dozen to a few hundred people.

Probably the quaintest collection of school buildings in Canada is parked along Drayton Valley's main thoroughfare, ambitiously called 50th St. "Parked" is no exaggeration. Abandoned country schoolhouses from 50 miles around have been towed here by tractors to help house the soaring school population. The roofs of two had to be cut off to get them under a railway trestle.

Rosa Walters, the principal, came here six years ago from Vermilion expecting to manage a quiet country school. She inherited the province's biggest schoolhouse headache. Buildings range in age fro 50 days to 50 years. The youngest is a new wing on one of the older buildings. Lighting ranges, between buildings, from fluorescent to coal oil lamps.

The vice-principal, Arthur Jorgensen, solved his housing problem by installing a bed in the 8 x 8 principals' office. This past winter, when the school children went to flood their rink, they found a trailer colony had squatted on the land. So a new site had to be found. One teacher is Mrs. H. T. Deby. Her husband, a farmer-turned-trailer-park proprietor, sold some of his farm to the school this year. A new 10-room school is to be built on it. My farewell impression of Drayton Valley, on the drive back to Edmonton, was a road bustling with oilfield-bound trucks. A number hauled skid shacks to help house the still-swelling population. Along the road were "for sale" signs hanging on new skid shacks, which enterprising farmers were slapping together as a spare-time vocation. And they must have been doing a roaring trade.

Centrefield Trailer Court

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Written by Eleanor Pickup

The year was 1954. The village of Drayton Valley was very much in the news. Oil was found the year before, and the population went from seventy-five to hundreds overnight.

The country roads had been quite adequate for the small communities, however, when the huge vehicles for moving oil derricks, oil equipment, oil trucks, etc., started moving in great quantities, roads were being constructed in all areas as quickly as possible. It was soon evident that a ferry was greatly needed on the North Saskatchewan River to connect Drayton Valley and north, to Breton area south, and east to Leduc.

My husband, Howard W. Pickup, a pharmacist, had gone to Drayton Valley to open the first drugstore in the hotel which was, at that time, still being built, and not useable. He slept in his sedan delivery until such time the hotel would be ready.

Because of loneliness, I would pack our Pontiac car with food for sons Gordon and Mark (four years and sixteen months respectively), clean clothes for all, including Howard, food for Prince our Collie and Blue our budgie, and leave Nordegg to make the trip to Drayton Valley via Sylvan Lake, Red Deer, and the undulating, narrow and winding Highway 16 from Edmonton. This was a ten hour drive, (stopping for lunches and never passing up the chance to stop at Twig Inn near Seba Beach, for a piece of homemade pie,) or, if possible via Rimbey, Breton, then east to the Genesee ferry, spending the weekend with Howard at Gainford's old hotel.

One day just before leaving Nordegg, Howard was able to get through on the one and only phone in Drayton Valley to tell me to drive to Breton, go west to Buck Creek, then north to the Saskatchewan River, that the ferry was to be in operation, however, the approaches were not built and to be sure to do what the operator told me, or I would land in the river. I wasn't to worry about it, but to do EXACTLY what I was told. "Oh NO. What am I doing?" I thought. "I haven't driven much and to drive onto a ferry.

It was a hard trip for the little boys, especially Mark. He wasn't very happy in the metal canvas car seat and he fussed considerably all the way. At last we started down a long hill and there, on the other side of the river, was the ferry loading several large vehicles. It was so far away I couldn't see what the men did to get their vehicles on the ferry.

On our side of the river, there were several vehicles ahead of me. We had to wait our turn, it took quite a while. Fortunately, Mark fell asleep and Gordon was very quiet. He hoped Mom had control of the car, and her blood pressure. Then came my turn. Oh dear, the operator hesitated. He saw a woman driving. I could see him think to himself. "She has two children. She is the first woman to attempt to board my ferry with no approaches. What is she going to do? Will she be able to drive onto the ferry? Or, will she panic and drive right into the river?

The operator decided to talk to me and explain I had to drive on two planks from the shore to the ferry, to watch his hand signals, and he would get me there safely. (He hoped!) He went to the front of the car, took a deep breath, walked backwards and very cautiously gave his first hand signal. Come forward. Hand signal, steer to the right. Hand signal, not too far to the right. Hand signal, a shade to the left, then signal to come slowly, slowly. SLOWLY.

My heart beat so heavily, my chest ached. "Oh dear", I thought, "I only turned the steering wheel ever so slightly, how can I drive slower? Where are my wheels? Where are those planks? How much further?" I couldn't stop my hands from shaking. My foot slipped off the gas pedal. My left foot insisted on pressing the clutch pedal too often. "Oh thank goodness, there is the edge of the ferry. I am first on." What was happening? The car made the ferry bob around like an Indian rubber ball. The front of the ferry was higher than the back, "Oh NO!" I thought. Then the back was higher than the front.

The operator was taking me so close to the edge. My thoughts screamed, "Why? My car is going to fall off." Then I saw that another vehicle was coming on behind me. "Please, don't nudge my car, or I will be in the river," I knew.

It was a short trip across the river, just long enough to help me to catch up to my breathing. The next problem was: Would I be able to find those planks again to drive off? The Operator gave me the hand signal, advance slowly, s l o w l y. Signal, to the left. Signal, come slowly, a quick signal to the right. From the corner of my eye, I could see the north shore coming closer inch by inch. I held my breath, so far so good, only another few seconds. At last we were on the good solid earth. Gordon gave a nervous laugh. He had lost faith in me.

The long hill was ahead of me, and those big vehicles were right behind my tail lights. They wanted me to drive faster. They wanted to get going, and I was going so slowly in their eyes. Little did they know that my body was shaking so badly I could hardly keep my hands on the steering wheel.

How much further was Drayton Valley? No more than five miles, I hoped. The children were so tired and I was exhausted. When we did arrive, I was to the point I thought I didn't have the energy to get out of that Pontiac.

Howard was very pleased to see his boys. I was almost an after thought. While hugging his boys, he looked at me and asked: "Did you have a good trip?" Just once in my life I had the urge to kill!

TOWN OF DRAYTON VALLEY GETS COMPUTERIZED

Written by Lloyd MacLean

Mr. Johanneson broached the idea that the administration office of the town might be better served with a computer system. The council okayed the idea that we look into the system and we proceeded with inviting the various computer companies to make their overtures.

It was decided that Mrs. Mary MacKenzie would first make the trek to Edmonton and see first hand the pros and cons of each company's wares. After a couple of trips to Edmonton she expressed very positively that the I.B.M. was far superior to the competition but was very concerned about the difference in price. The Town council voted in favour of contacting the I.B.M. representative to see what they could offer.

Representatives from I.B.M. came to Drayton Valley and made their presentation, stating that they felt the computer could be programmed in about three to six months, but stated that they were not that familiar with municipal programming. We decided to purchase the I.B.M.

Two years later, they were still involved with programming. Apparently, we were the first town in

Western Canada to acquire the I.B.M. for I received telephone calls from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C. Municipal bodies as to what were the merits of I.B.M. over the competition and the reasons why we decided on the I.B.M.

Years later, in Palm Springs, CA, I encountered the head man for I.B.M. from New York, and I related my story telling him what resolved in relation to the I.B.M. computer. I told him that if I.B.M. paid out a million dollars in a sales fee to Drayton Valley, they likely would have had a terrific bargain. He smiled.

MECHANICAL SEWAGE PROJECT

Written by Lloyd MacLean

Once an adequate supply of water was obtained from the river nearby, in order to complete the project, a mechanical sewage installation had to be entertained. The present sewage system was comprised of 40 acres of lagoons and was located in the north eastern part of the town. Lagoons require a retention period of six months for the effluent and with unfavorable wind directions could present an unfavorable odor. A mechanical system requires a fraction of the land area and the retention of the effluent is about one week.

The mechanical system became a reality with a relative small percentage of the town people aware of its construction. The price tag was $450,000. Red Deer built a similar installation on a somewhat larger scale, approximately 10 years later, at a cost of $25,000,000.

Little did we know at the time that the value of the reclaimed land from the lagoons at a later date, paid for all the costs of the water treatment plant and mechanical sewage system installation several times over.

DRAYTON VALLEY AND AREA AIRPORT

Written by Lloyd MacLean

For the first several years, the local airport, which was a dirt strip, was owned, operated and maintained by Mobil Oil. A group of citizens felt that the town should have a paved airstrip of its own but not everyone agreed.

The first overture was made in about 1972 and the land costs were going to be $200,000. At about the same time, the Provincial Government was promoting the creation of regional airstrips, with very generous grants for such, but the land acquisition was the responsibility of the community.

I personally was negative on paying that kind of money for the land and the plan was put in limbo. Several months later, another overture was made with the land costs to be $50,000. The Town council thought this would be much more palatable.

John Hansen agreed to oversee the construction on a voluntary basis and soon after Drayton Valley had a paved airstrip, without a beacon and runway lights. Runway lights and beacon were under the jurisdiction of the Federal Department of Transport and they indicated that it would be about two years before they could get around to installation of same.

There was no way we could wait for two years as the situation would only guarantee a serious accident to happen. A dilemma was definitely presented. Shortly afterwards I was in Edmonton at a warehouse and I noticed this crate in a floor area which was about 6 ft. high. With time on my hands and a sense of curiosity I thought I would take a look inside for the crate had no cover. Lo and behold what was inside were a set of runway lights and a beacon. I said to the owner of the place, how much do you want for that wooden crate with its contents. He replied: "$1000". I said: "Consider it sold". Then he said: "Hold it, what's inside? He asked what I wanted it for. I pretty well had to tell him what it contained and why I wanted it. Then he commenced to renege on the deal.

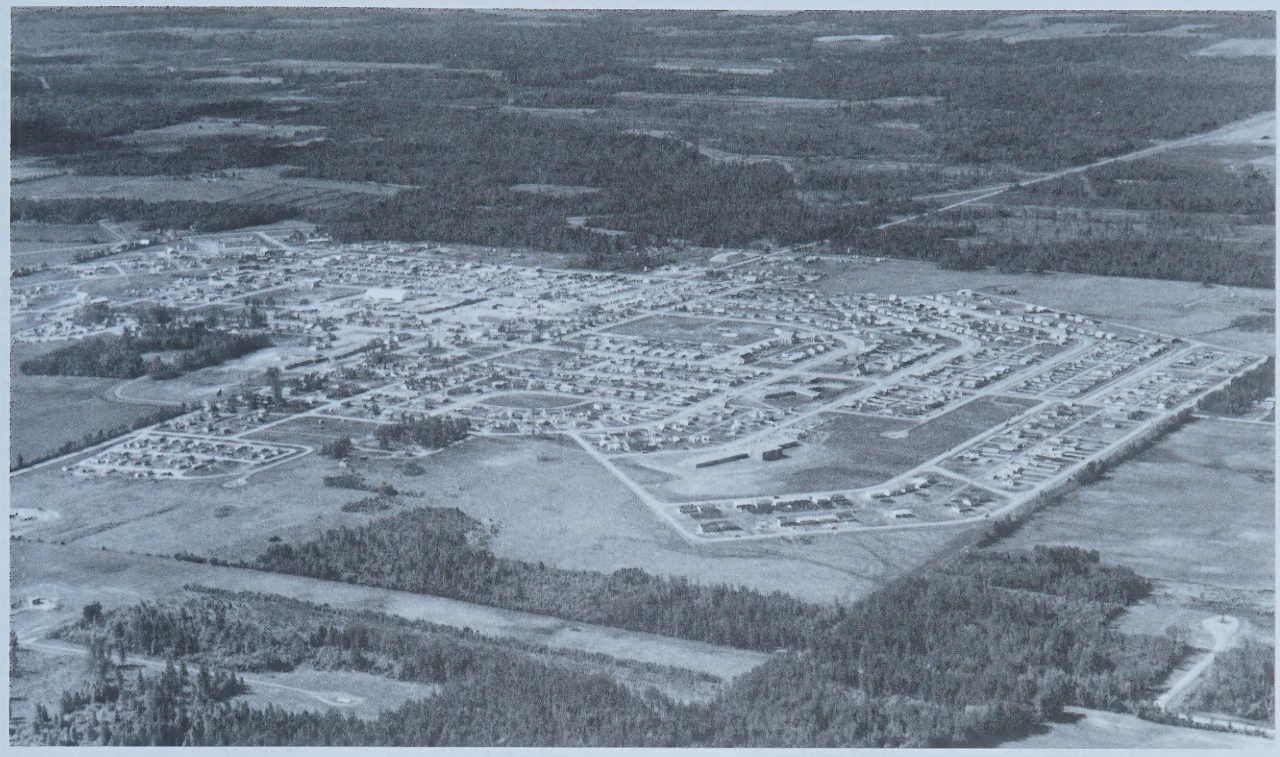
I presented it to council and told them to negotiate with the owner. I believe they acquired it for $3000, which was still a bargain. I often wondered if the Department of Transport ever got around to installing the runway lights and beacon on their own.

Another item came up after the airport was a reality. The pilots of the planes using the facility complained about some trees at one end of the strip and some scrub bush on the fence line at the other. We felt this would pose no problem. We would contact the land owners at each end and it would be no problem for removal. The one landowner said, "No way, the scrub bush served as shade for his cattle". We ended up paying $60,000 for a few acres of land in order that the brush could be cleared away. I am sure they were the most expensive trees in the area. The other land owner relented and the trees were removed.

CONSOLIDATING DRAYTON VALLEY AS THE MAIN CENTRE OF THE AREA

Written by Lloyd MacLean

As everyone knows, oil was the driving force in Drayton Valley becoming a town in its early days of the fifties. However, there was a general fear that the town could regress into a smaller centre after the drilling of wells would be completed such as happened to Redwater and Devon. One difference between Drayton Valley vs. Redwater and Devon, was the distance to Edmonton. Ordinarily speaking a person in Drayton Valley would not drive to



Town of Drayton Valley

Edmonton at the spur of the moment or would do their grocery shopping and/or require their personal needs in Edmonton, which was a all too familiar scene in Redwater or Devon. Drayton Valley definately was not a satellite town of Edmonton.

It became obvious to me early on in my term as mayor that an effort had to be put forth to make Drayton Valley the centre rather than Evansburg, which was on a main highway artery and railroad. To assure that the infrastructure had to be increased considerably, such as adequate hotel accommodation, an increased shopping area, more services to the oil industry, senior citizens accommodations, paved streets throughout the town, even a funeral home. We were already blessed with an adequate supply of churches, schools, hospital, and medical outlets. Of course, an adequate supply of fresh water was a prerequisite.

To obtain more hotel and sleeping facilities did not come without a lot of opposition from the existing merchants. Whenever the third reading was to happen in the council chambers, the place was plumb full with almost everyone against from the town centre. If the people responsible for taking on these various ventures and putting up their own money and conforming to the various local and zoning bylaws, we could see no reason, to obstruct them, this was the free enterprise system operating the way it should.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL AREA – 1974

Written by Lloyd MacLean

Mr. John MacKenzie approached me one day to see if I was interested in purchasing some raw land from him, which involved several acres. I told him that I was not interested but maybe the town would be. The price was $35,000.

I presented the proposal to the town council and the council voted to acquire it, as future residential. I spoke to the council about the development plan and that if we were going to develop it as residential that we eliminate the alleyways.

New housing in Drayton Valley

The council thought that I flipped, apparently no one ever heard before that this was a very sane method. I went on to explain how you went about it, the water and sewer lines would go under the street, the hydro and telephone lines would also be burried and that there was nothing wrong with putting the garbage out front on pick up day.

The land was developed as such and I suppose today if someone proposed an alleyway in a new development, everyone would think that somebody flipped their top.

DISTRICT POST OFFICE POSTMASTERS

Violet Grove Post Office

Name of Postmaster	Date of Appointment	Date of Vacancy	Cause
Matthew Orval Burnett	1934-92-23	1946-08-23	Resignation
Mrs. Violet Marjory Forsyth	1946-10-16		
Mrs. Violet Marjory Forsyth	1946-12-23	1948-08-07	Resignation
Edward Francis Hines		1948-08-09	Acting
Edward Francis Hines	1948-11-30	1950-7-04	Resignation
Maynard Boardman Allen	1950-07-09		Acting
Edward Francis Hines	1950-08-01		Acting
Edward Francis Hines	1950-10-13	1950-10-12	Resignation
Mrs. Arla Joe Allen	1950-10-13		Acting
Mrs. Arla Joe Allen	1950-12-12	1954-03-22	Resignation
Vacancy cancelled		1955-11-05	Resignation
Mrs. Inez Marie Goodheart	1955-11-30		Acting
Loren Claude Astleford	1956-04-30		Retirement
Maynard Boardman Allen	1956-09-13		Acting
Thomas Arthur Smith	1957-02-28		Acting
Thomas Arthur Smith	1958-03-01	1963-03-08	Resignation
Mrs. Violet Margaret Smith	1963-07-15		Resigned
Mrs. Joan M. Elliott	1971-07-15	1973-01-05	Resigned
Mrs. Mary A. Evenson	1973-01-07	1975-11-11	Resignation
Mrs. L. MacRae	1975-11-12	1976-05-17	Resignation
Mrs. Eileen Dora Hoge	1976-05-18		

Additional Information: Annex to Dwelling, Separate building rented by PM, Semi-staff – 1955-07-01, PO Rev. 1976, Revenue Office – 1960-11-01, NW Sec. 24, Twp. 48, R. 8, W5M.

Pembina (94582)

Name of Postmaster	Date of Appointment	Date of Vacancy	Cause
Henry Thomas Deby	1934-12-15	1946-008-12	Resignation
Clinton Walter Vickrey	1946-09-02		Acting
Clinton Walter Vickrey	1946-11-27	1947-02-21	Resignation
Cerphes Roy Thompson	1947-03-23	Acting	
Cerphes Roy Thompson	1947-07-04	1954-05-24	Closed

Additional Information: PO only – 1945-03-22, SE Sec. 19, Twp. 48, R. 8, W5M, SW Sec. 20, Twp. 48, R. 8, W5M – 1946-09-02.

Thomas Arthur Smith	1957-02-28		Acting
Thomas Arthur Smith	1958-03-01	1963-03-08	Resignation
Mrs. Violet Margaret Smith	1963-07-15		Resigned
Mrs. Joan M. Elliott	1971-07-15	1973-01-05	Resigned
Mrs. Mary A. Evenson	1973-01-07	1975-11-11	Resignation
Mrs. L. MacRae	1975-11-12	1976-05-17	Resignation
Mrs. Eileen Dora Hoge	1976-05-18		

Lodgepole (8623)

Name of Postmaster	Date of Appointment	Date of Vacancy	Cause
Mrs. Doris Ellen Proehl	1956-08-09	1959-03-08	Resignation
Leonard Kay	1959-03-10	Acting	
Leonard Kay	1959-06-02	1963-03-21	Resignation
Mrs. Joyce Marie Leadlay	1963-07-21	1964-04-28	Resignation
Mrs. Doris Ellen Proehl	1964-05-01	Acting	

Mrs. Doris Ellen Proehl	1964-07-14	1968-07-25	Resignation
Rob Roy McGregor	1968-07-26	Acting	
Rob Roy McGregor	1969-02-28	1970-01-23	Retired
Mrs. Alice McGregor	1970-01-24		

Additional Information: Store (confectionery), PO 243-1, NW ¼ Sec. 31, Twp. 47, R. 9, W5M.

Additional Information: Annex to Dwelling, Separate building rented by PM, Semi-staff – 1955-07-01, PO Rev. 1976, Revenue Office – 1960-11-01, NW Sec. 24, Twp. 48, R. 8, W5M.

Cynthia (8314)

Name of Postmaster	Date of Appointment	Date of Vacancy	Cause
Mrs. Phylis Mae Dow	1964-11-27	1964-12-07	Resignation
Mrs. Joan G. Small	1964-12-11	Acting	
Mrs. Joan G. Small	1965-02-11	1966-05-02	Resignation
Mrs. Margaret E. Metcalfe	1965-05-15	Acting	
Mrs. Margaret E. Metcalfe	1966-08-10	1968-06-12	Resignation
Mrs. H. Louise Rutherford	1968-06-29	Acting	

Additional Information: NE Sec. 32, Twp. 49, R. 10, W5M

Brazeau Dam (8127)

Name of Postmaster	Date of Appointment	Date of Vacancy	Cause
Mannix Company Ltd.	1961-06-71	1963-11-21	Resignation
Poole Construction Ltd.	1963-11-21	Acting	
Poole Construction Ltd.	1963-12-24	1964-09-30	Temp Closed
Mrs. Ada Merle Reid	1968-07-02		
Mannix Standard General	1968-08-31	Acting	
Mannix Standard General	1969-12-30		Perm Closed

Additional Information: NW Sec. 17, Twp. 46, R. 11, W5M – 1961-06-07.

Rocky Rapids (8829)

Name of Postmaster	Date of Appointment	Date of Vacancy	Cause
W.E. Jeffery	1909-03-15	1916-04-11	Resignation
Isaac Leander Combs	1916-11-15	1928-06-25	Change in site
Gilbert McCall	1928-07-20	1959-05-11	*
Rene Lucien Joseph Belva	1959-11-22		

Additional Information: Sec 26, Twp. 49, R. 7, W5M – 1909-03-15, Sec. 36, Twp. 49, R. 7, W5M, SE ¼ Sec. 4, Twp. 50, R. 7, W5M, SW Sec. 36, Twp. 50, R. 7, W5M – 1926-04-09, SE Sec 4, Twp. 50, R. 7, W5M – 1928-07-16.

Easyford (93019)

Name of Postmaster	Date of Appointment	Date of Vacancy	Cause
Charles Henry Young	1935-04-12	1936-01-09	Change in site
Henrick V. Pontoppidan	1936-02-24	1944-07-14	Resignation
Mrs. Inez Louise Oscar	1944-09-20		Acting
Mrs. Inez Louise Oscar	1945-07-14	1963-08-19	Resignation
Mrs. Vivian Getzinger	1963-10-16	Acting	
Mrs. Vivian Getzinger	1964-08-17	1966-07-18	Resignation
	1966-07-29		Permanently Closed

Additional Information: SW Sec.7, Twp. 50, R. 8, W5M – 1935-04-12, NE Sec. 6, Twp. 50, R. 8, W5M - 1936-02-24. Office permanently closed effective 29th July 1966 due to its limited usefulness.

Northleigh (94481)

Name of Postmaster	Date of Appointment	Date of Vacancy	Cause
H.G. Toye	1915-02-20	1917-03-10	Resignation
Martin McGinn	1918-02-21	1948-09-02	Resignation

Mrs. Nanee M. Goerwell	1948-10-01	Acting	
Mrs. Nanee M. Georwell	1949-01-12	1953-06-01	Resignation
Raymond Simpson Ingram	1953-06-16	Acting	
Raymond Simpson Ingram	1953-09-29	1954-02-11	*
Mrs. Martha E. Cole	1954-02-12	Acting	
Mrs. Martha E. Cole	1954-06-24	1956-07-07	Resignation, closed

Additional Information: Dwelling, Store owned by PM – 1953-06-17, 1954-02-12, Sec. 13, Twp. 50, R. 7, W5M – 1915-02-20, Sec. 34, Twp. 50, R. 6, W5M, NW Sec. 34, Twp. 50, R. 6, W5M – 1926-04-09, SE Sec. 6, Twp. 51, R. 6, W5M.

Drayton Valley (8347)

Name of Postmaster	Date of Appointment	Date of Vacancy	Cause
William John Drake	1913-06-15	1936-01-29	*
John Tucker 1936-02-29	1911-05-22		Resignation
Chester Everett Miller	1951-06-28	Acting	
Chester Everett Miller	1951-09-15	1956-11-09	Reverted to asst.
Robert A. Best	1956-00-09	Acting	
John Albert Bright	1957-01-31	Still there 1964-02,	

Additional Information: Temp. Quarters – 1954-06-05, Semi-Staff – 1954-11-01, Staff Off. – 1963-01-01, PO 1853-1, Sec. 7, Twp. 49, R. 7, W5M – 1913-06-15, NE Sec. 7, Twp. 49, R. 7, W5M – 1926-04-09, SE Sec. 17, Twp. 49, R. 7, W5M – 1928-08-21, 1951-06-28, SW Sec. 16, Twp. 49, R. 7, W5M – 1936-02-29. Money order business established – 1933-12-16.

FARM FAMILY AWARD 1997

Drayton Valley and District Chamber of Commerce Farm Family Award recipients for 1997 – Cecil and Colleen Andersen.

The focus of the Farm Family Award selection process is on farming and family. Consideration is given to excellence in agriculture endeavors, family involvement, community involvement, and of particular significance is contributions towards improvements in agriculture. Our 1997 award recipients, Cecil and Colleen, score high on all aspects.

Following their marriage in 1973, Cecil and Colleen farmed with the Andersens on the family farm at Marwayne in eastern Alberta. In March of 1981, with their sons Pat and Ryan, they moved to a ranch they bought south east of Drayton Valley on the North Saskatchewan River. Their youngest son Bart arrived in 1982. Today their ranching operation consists of running a 300 to 400 cow calf herd. They background a similar number of calves and do some custom grazing. To accomplish this entails a large forage endeavor in hay and silage along with a cereal grain component. One of the "firsts" they are credited with is introducing silage operating into the Drayton Valley area.

Commitment to the community has always been high on the Andersen's agenda with Colleen serving on the Parent Advisory Councils for the schools as the boys went through and 13 years of co-ordinating the hot lunch programs. Cecil and Colleen both have been very active in the Agricultural Society; Colleen served as secretary; Cecil served as president for 3 years and is presently co-chairing the Livestock Show committee. Cecil has been involved for years on the executive of the Rural Crime Watch. Colleen is President of the Drayton Valley Genealogical society and Secretary of the Drayton Valley District Historical Society. Colleen currently serves as a board member of the Crossroads Regional Health Authority. Insight from her 10 years part time work at the Drayton Valley Hospital backgrounds her effectiveness in this RHA position. Colleen and Cecil helped organize and hosted the first Cancer Ride in Drayton Valley in 1983 and continued until 1989. They also hosted a ride for MS. They were activists in the formation of the new MD and have continued their interests in the ongoings and processes.

Youth and family has always been uppermost in their priorities over the years with the family getting involved in the 4h beef club, the Drayton Valley ski club, Brazeau Bow Benders, the Evergreen Shooting Club in addition to Colleen's volunteering as a teacher helper in the schools. The Andersen family has enjoyed and is quite enthusiastic in being a host family for the Canada World Youth organization. The past two years they have hosted boys from Uruguay and Cecil is full of stories about that. For the 1996 Winter Games Cecil volunteered as the Zone Coach for the Air Rifle competition.

Synonymous with contributions to and leadership in the direction of agriculture in Alberta is the name Cecil Andersen. This is where Cecil really gets busy. He served on the MD of Brazeau Agricultural Service Board from 1988 to 1992, has been a

Director of the Jackpine Grazing Reserve, and is presently on the executive of the West Central Air Shed Society and the Pembina Agricultural Protection Association. His leadership talents are currently put to use as; Chairman of the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation Develop-ment Appeal Board, President of the Great West Feeders Association, President of the Pembina Grazing Reserve Association, and on the provincial board of the Farming for the Future- on Farm Demo- NW Regional Review Committee. This group provides funding for on farm research trials and projects.

Their spare time – Cecil spends his hunting and occasionally does some guiding while Colleen, being a farm wife, does not admit to having any.

Above all the Andersens are good neighbours. The Andersens excel in successful farming, which involves as a must; co-operating with and coordinating the neighbours and relatives in everything from collectively getting the branding, haying and field work done to keeping track of your own, plus your neighbours cows, and the occasional stray buffalo herd.

CHAPTER TWO
Our Schools

VIOLET GROVE SCHOOL
Written by Grace Landers

By 1936, as more people came to the Violet Grove district, it was necessary to build a school. Leo Look, who was a carpenter, had a big part in building the school, but others in the community also helped. The desks were made by Calvin Beller and Everett Brandt. Ernie Forsythe was the first teacher. He taught three or four years. Mrs. Stonehocker came to teach for a year. Miss Heywood and Inez Burnett were the next two teachers. Then Ernie Forsythe taught again for a few years. When he quit, Ivy McCall was supervisor for a few months, then I taught from 1948 to 1950.

With the oil boom, the population of Violet Grove increased immensely. Many trailers were moved in. This brought the need for more teachers and more schools. I went back to teaching there in January, 1955. Now we had two teachers and two schools. Mrs. Wollschlager taught grades four to eight and I taught grades one to three. Later we needed two more teachers and two more schools. Two more buildings were moved in, and Vera Kos and Violet Schoen came to teach grades one and two. They lived in a trailer on the school grounds. At one time there were about one hundred children in attendance. Later, some of the trailers were moved to Lodgepole or Drayton Valley and other areas, decreasing the population. Only two schools were needed then. Mrs. Wollschlager taught grades four to eight and once again I taught grades one to three. Mrs. Wollschlager stopped teaching and Mrs. Sieben taught her room for a while, then Mrs. Willner, until they took the higher grades to Drayton Valley. Because the parents wished to keep the smaller children at Violet Grove, I continued to teach grades one to three until 1963, at which time there were not enough children attending to warrant keeping the school open.

ELDORADO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Compiled by Ross Betton, February, 1984

The first school to be built at the site of the present Eldorado School was a small 20 x 30 log building. It was constructed by Mr. Roy Plotts, at the cost of $600.00. This building was supported two feet off the ground by fire-killed posts. Sawdust was banked against the building to help keep the floor warm. The school was named Eldorado by Mr. Jack Tucker, who had been working in the Yukon at a mine called Eldorado.

Classes were first held in 1915 during July and August only. The first teacher was Miss McCrae, the regular teacher from Tomahawk, who gave up her summer holidays to teach nine pupils. The second year, classes operated for six summer months, with Mrs. Williamson as teacher. By 1920, classes were operating for eight months of the year, but holidays were still in the winter.

In 1932, the original building burned down. Children attended classes in the old Church of God, which was on the north-east corner of 50th Street and 50th Avenue, until a new building could be erected. By 1944 there were two classes, and grades 1 to 9 were taught. One class used the Community Hall, later known as the Elks Hall. The teachers were Miss Fields and Miss Hoff.

The population was quite stable during the next few years. In 1947, the construction of the two upstairs rooms at the north end of the present building began. In 1948, one class was held in the old building, and one class in the incomplete new building. Miss Hoff, now Mrs. Pollock, was principal, and taught grades 7 to 10. Mrs. Deby taught Grades 1 to 6. In 1949, Miss Rosa Walters became the principal, and the south room of the new building was opened, making it possible for three classes to operate.

The first children to be bussed to Drayton Valley School came from the Laurel School District. The bus was operated by Mr. John Getzinger, who is still driving children to the same school today, some 34 years later. He remarks that the roads were never plowed in 1950.

The discovery of oil in December of 1953 was the signal that things would never be the same. In

Teachers in Drayton Valley Elementary School for the 1963 to 1964 season. Back Row, left to right: Mr. Gibson, grade 6; Miss F. Bohme, grade 7; Mrs. G. Blair, grade 7; Miss M. Thompson, grade 7, Mrs. L. Letwiniuk, grade 6; Mrs. L. Ross, grade 6; Miss S. Sherban, Mrs. B. Henkel, Mrs. A. Sware, Mrs. J. Harris and Mr. D. Bitner, all grade five teachers. Third Row, left to right: Mrs. L. Mayhew, Mrs. E. Ibbotson, Miss A. Renaski, and Mrs. G. Sprauge, all teacher in fourth grade rooms, Mrs. V. Flesher, Mrs. D. Henderson, Mrs. L. Comerford and Miss A. Landers, teachers in third grade rooms. Second Row: Mr. and Mrs. W. Hopfe, janitors; Mrs. F. Chapman, grade 3 and Mrs. J. Dusterhoft, grade 3; Mrs. E. Baker, Mrs. R. Hurley, Mrs. J. Cupit, Mrs. E. Cholach, Miss P. Sylvester and Mrs. E. Dion, grade two teachers, with Mr. J.B. Gray, Principal. Front Row: Miss B. Bingley, Miss I. Durban, Mrs. M. Lundquist, Mrs. E. Webb and Mrs. O. Cunningham, grade one teachers; with Mrs. M.J. Gray, secretary. Absent when the picture was taken: Miss T. Bohme, grade 7, and Mrs. W. Kostick, grade 1

the fall of 1954, records show classes operating alternately on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays one week, and Tuesdays and Thursdays the next, so that two groups of children could share the same class room. Class sizes soared to over 40. With many people moving to the area to work in the oil industry, and the surrounding one-room schools being closed, the school population in Drayton Valley exploded.

1954 saw the addition of two more class rooms on the west side of the new structure, now rooms 20 and 22. Grade 12 was taught for the first time. All of the Grade 12 students prior to this time had gone either to Tomahawk or to Stony Plain. There were four students in the first Grade 12 class. They were: Betty White (Mrs. Jack Starling), Edna Fry (Mrs. Edna Swap), Audrey Herrandon (Mrs. Ron Stewart) and Kenneth MacKenzie.

In 1955-56, the south 12 classrooms and the gymnasium were built. This became the elementary portion of the building while the north portion was the high school. Miss Rosa Walters was the principal of the high school, and Mr. Tom McManus was principal of Grades 1 to 9.

Two further additions were made in 1957 and 1958, completing the building as it now stands. It is believed that as many as ten class rooms were housed in portables and old one-room schools during this period of growth. Added to these areas were three classes in the gymnasium, and some in church basements.

In 1958, Mr. T. McManus assumed the principalship of the high school, and Mr. John Gray became the principal of the elementary area. The opening of the original Frank Maddock High School in 1960 took the students in Grades 7 to 12, leaving only Grades 1 to 6 in this building under Mr. Gray as principal.

Relief came in 1963-64, when Grades 1 and 2, and one Grade 3 class were moved to Elementary "B" leaving only grades 3 to 6. Both buildings were operated under one administration, with Mr. Gray principal in Elementary "A" and Miss. B. Bingley acting as vice-principal in the Elementary "B" building. As student population increased in the high school, the Grades 1 and 2 students were returned to this building.

In 1965, Mr. Robert Elliott became principal. At the time there were six Grade 1, four Grade 2, three Grade 3, four Grade 4 and three Grade 5 classes. The Elementary "B" had become a junior high school separate from Eldorado.

With the construction of the present Frank Maddock High School in 1970, the present Elementary "B" and Eldorado schools were again operated by one administration, under Mr. Bill McCarthy as principal. Eldorado was referred to as the Elementary "A" school for lack of a name.

The two schools were put under separate administration in 1974, and Mr. Garland Hoel, who is presently teaching at Elementary "B" became principal. During that year, a contest was held to name the school. Research by some "name-searchers" uncovered the fact that the original name had been Eldorado, so the building was renamed Eldorado at that time.

In 1977, Mr. Brian Henker was named principal. During the past seven years, population changes and the addition of portables to Elementary "B" made it possible for Eldorado to become a primary school with 16 regular classes in grades 1 to 3, and extra rooms for Music, Resource, Library and Opportunity programs.

Eldorado School today is the home of the Drayton Valley Christian School as well as offering kindergarten to grade six classes.

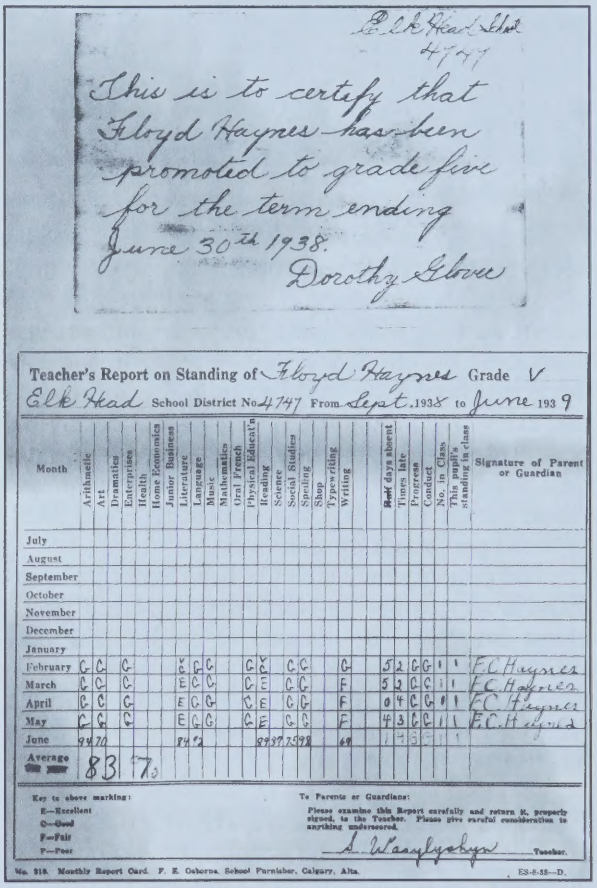
Eldorado School with some country schools moved in to accommodate the influx of students

ELK HEAD SCHOOL #4747

By Floyd Haynes & Cohorts

Elk Head School District #4747 was formed in 1936, extending for several miles along the west bank of the Pembina River. The proposed location for the school building was on the SW¼ - 12-50-9 W5M. Lumber was sawed and the building started, but for various reasons the plan was aborted.

Moving forward with a new plan for the school, alternate arrangements were made to use a log building located on the SW¼ - 1-50-5 W5M. Cecil Wall had built the structure, which was intended for use as his family's home, but their plans had changed and the Walls never occupied the house. However, before the house became a school, it served as a delivery room first. Helen Russell was born there with Mrs. Russell delivering her own baby! Mr. Russell had gone to get Mrs. Brown, the local midwife, but the baby was already peering out at the big, wide world by the time the midwife arrived. Russells lived in the house for a while because Helen remembers playing in the yard when she was little more than a toddler.



Elk Head School
4747

This is to certify that
Floyd Haynes has been
promoted to grade five
for the term ending
June 30th 1938.
Dorothy Glover

Teacher's Report on Standing of Floyd Haynes Grade V
Elk Head School District No. 4747 From Sept. 1938 to June 1939

Month	Arithmetic	Art	Dramatics	Enterprises	Health	Home Economics	Junior Business	Literature	Language	Music	Mathematics	Oral French	Physical Educat'n	Reading	Science	Social Studies	Spelling	Shop	Typewriting	Writing		Half days absent	Times late	Progress	Conduct	No. in Class	This pupil's standing in class	Signature of Parent or Guardian
July																												
August																												
September																												
October																												
November																												
December																												
January																												
February	G	G		G				V G	G	G			G	V G		G	G			G		5	2	G	G	1	1	F.C. Haynes
March	G	G		G				E	G	G			G	E		G	G			F		5	2	G	G	1	1	F.C. Haynes
April	G	G		G				E	G	G			G	E		G	G			F		0	4	G	G	1	1	F.C. Haynes
May	G	G		G				E	G	G			G	E		G	G			F		4	3	G	G	1	1	F.C. Haynes
June	94	70						84	72					89	89	75	98			69		1	4	6	5	1	1	
Average	83			70																								

Key to above marking:
E—Excellent
G—Good
F—Fair
P—Poor

To Parents or Guardians:
Please examine this Report carefully and return it, properly signed, to the Teacher. Please give careful consideration to anything underscored.

S. Wasylyshyn Teacher.

No. 318. Monthly Report Card. F. E. Osborne, School Furnisher, Calgary, Alta. ES-8-38—D.

Elk Head School 4747 – This is to certify that Floyd Haynes has been promoted to grade five for the term ending June 30th, 1938. Dorothy Glover

To prepare the site for a school setting, neighborhood volunteers built wooden desks, brought in a supply of firewood for the stove and built the out-

houses. There was also a barn on the property. November 22, 1937 was opening day with Miss Dorothy Glover as its first teacher. She boarded with Mr. and Mrs. E.P. Folmer who lived on the NE¼ -2-50-9 W5M. Miss Glover later married Roman Vowk. Subsequent teachers included Mrs. Sophia Wasylyshyn, Miss Effie Smetana, Miss Alexandra Lenglet, Miss Patricia Williams and Miss Rene Hansman.

Elk Head School

A few years before the school closed permanently in 1944, there were no adults in the community available to perform caretaking duties in at the school. At such times one of the older students was contracted by the Stony Plain School division to come to school early, build a fire, bring in firewood and carry water from the spring for use during the day. After classes were finished for the day, the student would sweep and clean up the room in preparation for the next day. The student received $4.50 to $5.00 per month for this work.

The property on which Elk head School was situated is now owned by Nora Albrecht, Cecil Wall's eldest daughter. The remains of the building may still be seen on the south side of the road, ½ mile west of the Easyford bridge on the Cynthia Highway #621, though it is gradually sliding down the encroaching riverbank.

FRANK MADDOCK HIGH SCHOOL

Our high school originated in the old building, presently the north section of Eldorado Elementary School, in 1949 and consisted of three grade 10 classes with Rosa Walters as principal. Grade 11 and grade 12 students attended Tomahawk and Stony Plain schools. By 1953, the high school consisted of grades 10 to 12 for the first time.

On January 6, 1960, the construction of a new building containing eight rooms and a library at a cost of $139,500 and to be known as the Drayton Valley High School was authorized. The motion had been made by Mr. F.W. Maddock. Subsequently, the Town Council of Drayton Valley successfully requested that the new high school be named Frank Maddock High School. Grades seven to twelve were moved to the new facility.

Due to a rapidly expanding pupil enrolment, a new high school building was authorized and its doors were opened to the high school students and staff on November 15, 1971. The high school population continued to grow and a new wing, including a language laboratory and art room was opened in October, 1978. During this time, programs increased and diversified according to the needs of the students. Thus, a full foods program, a complete business education program and a full industrial education program evolved along with the academic programs. However, by 1980 it became evident that a further curriculum expansion was necessary in order to assist our students in meeting requirements of an increasing technological environment. Accordingly, a new vocational wing was constructed in the fall of 1982. By mid-September 1983, the new laboratories were in operation. This addition contains Automotives, Welding, Building Construction, and a new Music facility. In conjunction with this change, two classrooms were renovated into a Beauty Culture Laboratory.

While Frank Maddock High School now had some excellent facilities, it did not have a cafeteria or an adequate gathering place for students when not receiving classroom instruction. The concept of the MAX student centre was developed by a committee of four teachers, which met initially in the fall of 1993. An innovative business plan was designed enabling the MAX to be self-sufficient, and funding in the form of loans, grants, and donations was secured from the Town of Drayton Valley, the Wild Rose School Division, the Government of Alberta, the M.D. of Brazeau, and numerous community members and businesses. The MAX is a multi-purpose facility designed to provide food services as well as educational, recreation, and cultural opportunities for both the school community and the community at large; and is managed and operated by students and school staff. The MAX opened in the fall of 1999, and has improved the quality of life not only within the school community, but also for the community at large. The educational and cultural opportunities provided by this facility are virtually endless.

In January 2000, a comprehensive interior renovation began with upgrades to the mechanical, heat-

ing, and electrical. Changes will also be made to improve and enhance the instructional areas of the school. We hope all students enjoy these newly renovated surroundings.

Historically, there has been a real attempt to pursue the goal contained in our school crest, "Strive to Excel".

LAUREL SCHOOL DISTRICT #4464

Submitted by: Eileen Belva, Dave Cameron, Cristel Dusterhoft and Jane Zander

Laurel School was first started in January, 1936, in Nick Hanson's log house, one quarter mile north of the future school site on the corner of SE¼ of Section 1,Township 50, Range 8, W5M. Only a trail was present, as a road was not built until the fall of 1936.

Students attending this school came from all four directions. From the north came Bill, Sophie and Alex Sakovich; Marjorie and Helen Garside; and Doris Smith. From the east came Dave, Neil, Joe, Kay and George Cameron; Cristel Schoen; Stanley, Nora, Thora and Olga Romanchuk; Nick, Bill and Annie Urkevich; Mary, Susie and John Udchitz. From the south there were Melville and Kimball Miller; and John Starnovich. Walking from the west were Erika, Alfred and Walter Greger; and Audrey and Wilmar Brown. Of this small group, two classmates, Neil Cameron and Melville Miller, gave up their lives for Canada in WW II.

It seems almost impossible that thirty-one students could fit into this small log house. Fathers from the community made desks from any available material. The first teacher was Miss Susie Syche, who boarded with Garsides. She taught until June 1938, and it was questionable as to whether she was ever fully paid. Some of the children came to school with no knowledge of the English language. It was a miracle how quickly most of the students learned to speak English.

During July and August of 1936, skunks had moved into the cellar of Hanson's house. The fathers who had children attending had a skunk raid to make the school habitable.

During the spring of 1936, local farmers whose children attended, started building the new school. Logs were taken from Section 36, and were hand hewed and dovetailed. The school was built over the period of a year and was ready for use in September of 1937.

Once the school was established, the people found they needed to raise money to pay the teacher a small wage. Dances, box socials, shadow socials, shoe socials, and pie socials were held on a regular basis. All members of the family attended these

Laurel School

functions because there were no babysitters. A picnic was held every summer at the end of the school year. Ice cream was made at the school. Labour, ingredients, and ice were supplied by local farmers. Every year, without fail, a Christmas concert was held. Fathers brought planks for a stage, mothers brought sheets for curtains, students and teacher practiced daily, desks were piled on the side, and the concert was the biggest hit of the season.

Some students rode horses to school. When Eileen Lindskoog started school, her dad built a small barn for her horse. A large barn was then built by the fathers for the horses of other students.

Students at the school were also employed as janitors. Some people who did this were Olga Romanchuk and later Eileen Lindskoog. Eileen's pay started at twelve dollars a month and later was raised to twenty.

The Free children lived in the original school in order to attend. Mrs. Free, Ethel, Bruce and Edna stayed from Monday to Friday, rather than make the difficult trip daily.

During the fourteen years of the existence of Laurel School, there were many dedicated, hard working teachers. The first was Sophie Syche, followed by Mr. Forsyth, Miss Goertz, Margaret Hines, Francis Scullion, Sybil Clark (Marskell), Freida Coward, Dorothy Vowk and the last was Gabrielle Darimont.

Laurel School closed in June, 1950. Students from the Laurel School District were the first students sent to Drayton Valley by bus. The old school is now located on the Gordon Kelly farm, northeast of Rocky Rapids.

June, 1950, was the beginning of a new era. The sense of community, which centered around the one room schoolhouse was gone. However, many pleasant memories remain.

MEMORIES OF THE DRAYTON VALLEY SCHOOL

By Eunice Swap, et al

Our school was two rooms; one big room and a

cloak room. The pot-bellied stove sat in the centre back, and the water pail was on a stand in the back corner. The desks were lined up in eight rows from front to back. The length of the rows was determined by the number of pupils in each grade. The usual attendance was forty to fifty students. On the front wall and the wall to the right were big blackboards. On the wall to the left hand side, there were many small windows which supplied all of the light for the room.

Our cloak room served as a storage room for our coats, lunches and boots. Although the pot-bellied stove kept the frost out of the main room, our lunches would sometimes freeze in the cloakroom on cold days.

Local pupils would take the job of janitor so they would have to go early to start the fire and carry the water in. The water pump was only a short distance from the school. In winter, the neighbours would haul barrels of water with team and sleigh to make us a skating rink. We skated noon hours, recesses, and for a half-hour three times a week, for Phys. Ed.

Dunington School

Spring recreation consisted of our annual track meet, in which we competed against local schools for ribbons. When we weren't practising for track meet we would play such games as pump pump pull away, prisoner base, and tag.

We all took part in the Christmas concert, which was very special to everyone. It consisted of plays, drills, recitations and singing. Everyone with hair curled and dressed in their best would be enthusiastically awaiting the arrival of Santa.

The boys would have their spats, which were always settled down on the sandhill just a short distance from the school. They would come back with bloody noses and hurt feelings, but would soon be friends.

We used to like our laughs and pranks which we played on the teacher. Did you know if you pull the wing off a bullfly and put it on the inside of a teacher's skirt, it will walk straight up? What a commotion! There were lots of straps, writing lines, also washing the mouth out with Lifebuoy soap for using foul language.

Some students rode horses to school, but most walked. It was cold and there was lots of snow in the winter, but with heavy wool ski suits no one missed too much school on account of the weather.

We had many happy days in our school, and had to make our own entertainment. We were like a big family. I am sure everyone who went to this school has many happy memories.

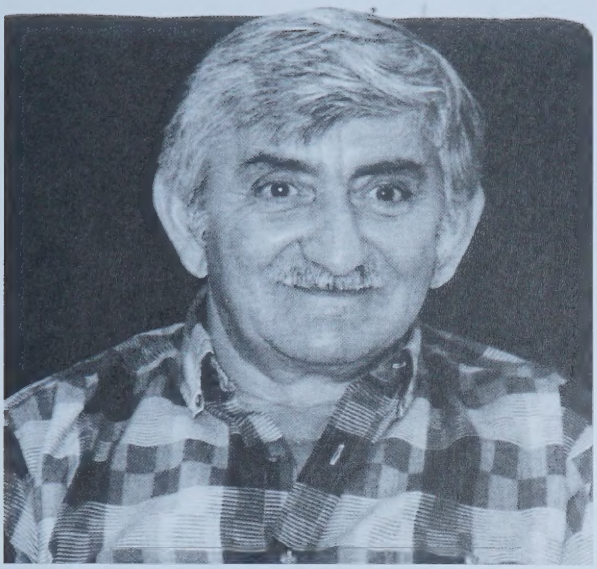
H.W. PICKUP JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

All students in Drayton Valley attended classes where Eldorado School is now. A new High School was opened in February 1960; a new Junior High in September 1960. During those years the Junior High went through many transitions such as only having grades six and seven, and later eight. Then it was changed to dropping the grade six classes and finally taking on the grade nine classes and becoming a Junior High School which it still is today.

The present site of H.W. Pickup was originally a High School in the north end and a Junior High in the south end. The building was built as a High School in 1959 and opened in February 1960 with an addition in the summer of 1960 to accommodate Junior High students.

With the increased student population, a new High School was needed. The High School was built on its present site and the Junior High moved into the old High School building in 1971 to 1972. Thus began H.W. Pickup as a junior high. The name came from a former Mayor and prominent business man, Howard Watson Pickup (H.W. Pickup) who passed away in 1970. The school was named after him because of his interest for education as well as the in the whole community. There were now two elementary school, Elementary A (Eldorado) and Elementary B (Evergreen).

On October 10, 1982 construction began to extend H.W. Pickup. In this addition were two home economics rooms, one for sewing and one for foods; a physical education office for teachers and two new changing rooms for students, along with a conference room and a much larger storage room. There were other face-lifts to the north end of the school with new flooring put in and a larger staff room. The arches in front of the school were also added on at the same time. New flooring was put in the south end only because the floor gave out due to too much moisture. The south end was renovated in the last couple of years including Rooms 33 and 34. For



Colin Cavanagh, Principal 1980 to 1998 of H.W. Pickup Junior High

special needs students, portables were brought in during our time with the County of Parkland, as a temporary measure. New rooms were constructed in 1998 to 1999.

Wayne Rosell, Vice Principal 1987 to 1999 and Principal from 1999 to present.

The Administrators past and present were: Principal: Barry Richer 1970 to 1980, Vice Principal: Tom Hutton 1970 to 1986; Principal: Colin Cavanagh 1980 to 1999, Vice Principal: Wayne Rosell 1987 to 1999; Principal: Brian Celli 1998 to 1999; Principal: Wayne Rosell 1999 to present, Vice Principal: Murray Carefoot 1999 to present.

RAMONA SCHOOL 1956

By Janice Gillurt

My name is Janice Gillurt – but in 1956 I was Janice Hallett. I walked to a small one-room schoolhouse called "Ramona". It consisted of a teacher's house, a wood and coal shed, and the school. It was heated by a small stove and each day someone was appointed to wood detail. We had our own tin cups with our initials on because other than for water we used them for soup. One teacher, Mrs. Dusterhoft, made good borsch (that I remember). I enjoyed all my years there, even though it was very cold walking to school in the winter. But summer came and there was Mrs. Solomon's garden right along the way home. I always wonder if she ever knew where all her peas and carrots went? Boys will be boys.

I remember the Kmytas and Kwasnicias playing tricks on any teacher they thought they would get away with – like putting a toad under the bell, climbing on the roof and looking down into the window as she rang the bell, and "scream". All those heads laughing as you looked outside. I'm not sure who supplied all our wood and coal for the stove. I would like to know now that I'm older. We also had once a year picnics for all the farm families.

My mom would sew for days. There were five girls. I remember my three small sisters All wearing the same outfits. I enjoyed all my teachers. Mrs. Dusterhoft was the best! She would get SO angry and make us write lines: one word took up the whole black board. Our lines consisted of three words since we had three black boards. After grade three we attended Tomahawk School. The three black boards made good sleds when replaced by new green chalk boards.

In Tomahawk I made many friends. Teachers I really liked were Mrs. Wordon, Mrs. Muad, and Mrs. Hughs. Later I found out Mrs. Hughs had taught my dad, Tom Hallett. Mr. Overbo was our principal. It was the first time I did track and field. We got to go to basketball games and to the Ice Capades. It was great. I also really enjoyed riding the bus. Mr. Reich was the best driver. Every Christmas we got to sing "Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer". I think he enjoyed it. One year it rained so hard we had to stay at school since all the roads were flooded. Buses couldn't get through. I didn't know where the food came from (would like to know, too,) but we didn't go hungry.

CHAPTER THREE
Our Churches

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH
Submitted by Terry Drader

During the time Canon William T. Elkin worked as a missionary from 1934, it was evident to him while he was in the Drayton Valley area that there was a lack of medical care and facilities.

There were three lumber mills operating in the area at this time at which there were frequent accidents. The nearest doctor was 70 miles away and the nearest hospital was in Edmonton.

Canon Elkin negotiated with the Drake family who wished to donate an acre of land in 1935. Construction of the "Lady Ferren Memorial Mission and Nursing Station" took place in 1936. Financial assistance was obtained from "The Fellowship of the Maple Leaf" in England and the three lumber mill owners donated lumber for its construction.

Sybil Groves, a Bishop's messenger, began a Sunday school and conducted church services. The first service was held in 1936 in the Mission House.

A church was built in 1937, and it was dedicated on October 10, 1937, by The Right Rev. Arthur Edward Burgett. Visiting Clergy, Missionaries, Deaconesses, and Lay Readers led the services. At this time Drayton Valley was very isolated. There were no roads; only trails and the population was only about 75 in the Hamlet.

In 1953 oil was discovered. With it came a boom and a sudden influx in the population of approximately three thousand. To accommodate the rapid growth of the community The Rev. Less Corness accepted the challenge of ministering to the Drayton Valley area, Alder Flats, Buck Creek and Evansburg. At this time it was an assisted parish.

The parish became self sufficient in January 1961 after an "Every Member Visitation" showed an increase in giving of over 115% over the previous year. The Mission House became the Parish Hall in the early 1960's.

During the 1970's and 1980's as the congrega-

Anglican Church, (Drayton Valley) 1938. Ray Hodge hauling wood to church

March 22, 1961 – Confirmation at All Saints Anglican church. Front, L to R, Darreld Williams, Kenneth Butts, Donna Jenkins, Right Reverend Burch, Bonnie Baxter, Grant Jahnke, David Disney. Back Row, L to R, the Reverend R., Brown, Mrs. Elsie Adams, Kenneth Flesher, Mrs. Jean Clarke, Jack Starling, Michael Smith, Mrs. Maureen Duene, and Dalton Heyland

tion and the needs of the Sunday school grew, the need for bigger facility was apparent. Some of the Sunday school classes were held in the old Town Hall. The old church only seated a maximum of 75 people.

The Rev. Keith Denman and the building committee worked tirelessly planning, praying and deliberating over the construction of the new church. An acre of land was donated by Edith Deby for a new church building site. The old site was sold to Pembina Education Society to house their new advanced education school.

St. Paul's Evansburg is the second point in this minister. Their service is held in the Lutheran Church in Evansburg.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The first services conducted in Drayton Valley by the Baptist General Conference were under the direction of Rev Grant Samuelson in May of 1961 and held in the Eldorado School. We began with Sunday services both morning and evening and midweek Bible study and prayer. The summer of 1961 saw the completion of a large parsonage, the basement of which became our church chapel. Under the direction of Rev. Elbert Cearfoss the church formed a constitution and became incorporated by the Province of Alberta. Pastor Owen Isaacson led the church into a building program in early 1969. Through much volunteer labor from the church families, it was completed that same year. The church continued to grow despite the transient population under the leadership of Pastor Roger McClelland. By 1974 the church growth necessitated an extensive addition to the five year old building, doubling its capacity. During the ministry of Pastor Wes Long this addition was built and was completed by May of 1976. At the time Sunday morning attendance ranged from 120 to 135 people.

Over the years we have tried to introduce people to a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ. We trust that god will continue to bless the ministry of all His people in this town as we seek to impart the wonderful message of the Gospel to people in need of God's love and forgiveness.

CHURCHES

DRAYTON VALLEY CHURCH OF GOD

Written by Church historian, Lori Blackmer

In 1911, Mr. and Mrs. N.P. Dodson moved from their home in Minnesota to homestead in the Drayton Valley District. There were few families in the area at that time and no Sunday School or church services were being held. The Dodson's began the first Sunday School out of their log cabin home in 1912. About this same time, the Combs family moved to the Rocky Rapids District and, together with the Dodsons, they held Sunday School and worship services in different locations.

In 1924, Mr. Dodson donated 3 acres of land for a building and through the hard work of many pioneers in the community, the first church building was erected in 1927. With the decade of the 1950's, came the discovery of oil and the boom in Drayton Valley. The growth in the community brought about a need for larger church facilities. Through loans, the sale of land that belonged to the church, and financial gifts, enough money was secured to build the present building as well as a parsonage. A Sod Turning Service took place on September 18, 1955, and in April of 1957, a Dedication Service for the new building was held.

Early Baptismal services were held in the Pembina River and it wasn't until sometime after 1971 that a baptismal was built into the church. Many of those who experienced them, still remember the early "cold water baptisms."

The first long-term pastor was Rev. Walker Wright who served the church from 1937 to 1943. Even with the lack of cars and often the lack of roads, Rev. Wright was known for his dedicated ministry of visiting people around the countryside. Often, because of lack of money, Rev. Wright and other early pastors earned part of their salary in milk, meat, eggs and vegetables.

Following is a list of pastors who have served the church from its beginning to present time:

1919	First Evangelistic Services held by Rev. John Keats and Rev. Charles Grant.
1920	1920-1928 Itinerant Pastor, Rev. S.E. McKemey
1928-1936	Several pastors served the church for short periods of time.
1937-1943	Rev. Walker Wright
1944-1945	Rev. Anton Grymaloski
1946-1952	Several pastors and Alberta Bible Institute students served the church for short periods of time.
1953-1958	Rev. Richard Schieck
1958-1962	Rev. J. C. Wiuff
1962-1971	Rev. Donald Snell
1971-1982	Rev. A. F. Irving
1982-1984	Rev. Dave Turner
1984-1991	Rev. Donald Snell
1991-present	Rev. Michael Blackmer

The church, in its many years of serving this community, has faced both joy and hardships. Through it all,

God has been faithful and we will continue to strive ahead to do the work that He has called us to do.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Settlers came into the Drayton Valley area as early as just before World War I. Attracted by the logging industry and inexpensive land, they settled in communities now known as Violet Grove, Rocky Rapids, Easyford and Drayton Valley. They came from all over Canada, the United States and Europe. Although wild game and wild berries were plentiful, conditions were primitive. The distance to the nearest railroad, town or post office was accentuated by difficult travel through forest and muskeg swamp, with mosquitoes and black flies.

Farming was hard with small returns at best. The land had to be cleared of trees and bush. The gray wooded soil did not lend itself to growing good crops except oats and grass. Most settlers carried on a mixed farming operation and most of the men "worked out" in logging camps.

In 1947, a discovery well, Leduc No. 1, began producing oil, just a few miles west of Leduc. "Oil" became the word of the future. By the early 50's, oil was discovered in the Drayton Valley area. The Pembina Oilfield was one of the largest finds" of the day. People came to "harvest" the oil and the town of Drayton Valley began to grow rapidly.

Although a Lutheran congregation was well established in Tomahawk, and pastoral services were carried out from time to time around Rocky Rapids, no Lutheran congregation existed in Drayton Valley. With the influx of people, the time was ripe. A number of Lutheran families had moved into the area with the "oil boom". They wanted a Lutheran Church.

Vicar Edgar Greve, serving his internship at Rochfort Bridge, investigated the situation and on November 20, 1955, convened a group of people at the home of Ray Johnson. Ray Johnson was appointed chairman, Chuck Schneider as secretary and Everett Brandt as vice-president. A decision was made to hold worship services in the Scout Hall on Sunday evenings. Vicar Greve continued to carry out pastoral services until the late spring of 1956 when he returned to the Seminary.

In August of 1956, Pastor John Karlen, a recent seminary graduate, was installed as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tomahawk, and the mission in Drayton Valley. On October 3, 1956, a founding meeting was convened at the home of Mr.

& Mrs. Everett Brandt. The name "Emmaus Lutheran Church of Drayton Valley" was chosen. Chris Frank was appointed the acting chairman and he called for elections. The results of the election were as follows –

President:	Ted Schuman
Secretary:	Chuck Schneider
Treasurer:	Ray Johnson
Elders:	Everett Brandt
	Chris Frank
Trustees:	John Getzinger
	Donald Pipke
	Erven Rendflesh

A building committee was appointed with the following members: Ray Johnson (Chairman), Emil Pipke, Eugene Rendflesh and Carl Anderson. It was also resolved at this meeting that the congregation apply for membership in the Lutheran church-Missouri Synod, that they be incorporated under the Religious and Land Titles Act of Alberta and that a subsidy application be made to the Alberta-British Columbia District of Synod.

The First Budget

On December 8, 1956, the members met and adopted their first budget, for the year 1957. It was as follows –

Pastor's Salary	$ 1,248.00
Rent	270.00
Mileage	500.00
Pastor's Pension	115.00
Insurance	50.00
Stationery	35.00
Communion Supplies	10.00
Organ	27.50
Missions	500.00
	$2,755.50

At the same meeting, the first member received, after the founding meeting, was Mrs. Martha Kjorlien. On October 1, 1957, the congregation established a building fund for a new church building. Since the congregation was growing, the need for a church building of their own became essential, as the Scout Hall soon became too small for holding Sunday School.

Meetings during the first years, until a church was built, were held in member's homes. On March 4, 1958, at the quarterly meeting, a decision was made to buy two lots of property just two blocks east of the Roman Catholic Church. At a subsequent building committee meeting on April 15, it was decided to engage Werner Klingbeil to draw plans and prepare a cost estimate on a new church building. On March 3, 1959, the Voters' Assembly decided to accept the bid of $30,985 from MacCalder Construction Co. Ltd. On May 10, groundbreaking services were held with Pastor John Karlen turning the first sod. Adrian Meier, Mayor of Drayton Valley was also present. On June 9, the foundation of the church building was in place and on July 19, a corner stone laying service was held. The corner stone contains a box with the following items in it: a Bible, newspapers, church bulletins, photographs and a list of members. In the service led by Pastor Karlen, Erven Dressler and Adam Eckert mortared in the corner stone which has the following inscription engraved on it: "Other foundation can no man lay than Jesus Christ," (1 Cor. 3:11).

Growth in the congregation was steady in the first two years. The Annual Report for 1958 shows the following statistics: 65 baptized members, 47 communicant members and 19 voting members. 46 worship services were held with an average attendance of 65 people.

Finally the church building was ready to be occupied. On November 1, 1959, Dedication Services were held. Guest speakers for the occasion were Rev. W.E. Eifert, Rev. A.H. Raduenz and Rev. A. Gehring. The church structure, 26' x 60' with a full basement, seats 150 people.

After almost four years as the congregation's first pastor, Rev. Karlen accepted a call to Iowa and conducted his last service April 24, 1960. Rev. G. Mueller of Spruce Grove served the congregation during the vacancy. By that time the congregation had grown to 157 baptized members and 77 communicant members with contributions of $6,500. The Rev. M. Janz of Edmonton also helped serve the vacancy and during that time a very successful PTR (Preaching-Teaching-Reaching) Mission was conducted. Although no records are available as to when it began or for how long it continued, it is noted that a Sunday School was being operated in Lodgepole by the congregation in 1960 and 1961.

After 14½ months vacancy, Emmaus once again had a pastor to serve them. On Sunday, July 9, 1961, ordination and installation services for Rev. Edward Steyer were held at Immanuel, Tomahawk and at Drayton Valley. Pastor Steyer, a recent graduate of Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois, was the first pastor to reside in Drayton Valley. Under his ministry the congregation continued to grow. The report for 1962 shows 231 baptized members and 109 communicants with average attendance at worship of 98 people. Total offerings were $8,455. During 1962 an organ was purchased and dedicated on March 18. Miss Marvelyn Schwermann was the guest organist and Dr. A.H. Schwermann was guest speaker.

After a little over four years, Pastor Steyer

accepted a Call to South Dakota. Once again the congregation experienced a vacancy for almost a year. Rev. L. Scholl of Edmonton served the congregation during the vacancy.

At a voter's meeting on May 9, 1966, a motion was made to purchase a house to serve as a parsonage. The house that was purchased was owned by Joe Werhun and is located across the street directly east of the church. Purchase price was $13,250.

In May, of 1966, Emmaus members received word that Galen Drawbaugh had been assigned to the congregation to become their pastor. He was ordained and installed by Rev. G. Rode, President of the Alberta-British Columbia District on July 10. During the ministry of Pastor Drawbaugh, renovation of the church basement was completed at a cost of just over $1,000. The congregation experienced continued growth and the statistics for 1968 show 330 baptized members, 185 communicant members with contributions at just over $13,000. Pastor Drawbaugh accepted a Call to Ohio and held his last service on May 10, 1968.

Although without a pastor again, this vacancy proved to be short. Rev. John Eckstedt of Edson served the vacancy. At a Parish called meeting on May 10, 1968, Rev. Dale Mohr of Peace River was elected. In a letter dated June 12, 1968, Pastor Mohr indicated his acceptance of the Call. He holds the distinction of being the first pastor to accept a Call "from the field". The three previous pastors were all recent graduates of seminary when they assumed their pastorates. Installation services for Pastor Mohr were held July 28, the Rev. G. Rode performed the Rite of Installation.

During Pastor Mohr's ministry the congregation saw unprecedented growth. The statistics for 1972 show 394 baptized members and 250 communicants. Average church attendance in 1971 was 117 and in 1972 was 114. In the late winter of 1971 the basement of the parsonage was renovated at a cost of $900 with a large part of the work being done by Vern Kerber.

Pastor Mohr resigned from the congregation at the end of 1973. A call was sent out to Pastor John Schmidt of Winnipeg. He accepted and was installed by Dr. George Rode on April 4, 1974.

With the congregation growing rapidly, the workload for the pastor became burdensome. All these years Emmaus' pastor had served a dual parish with Immanuel, Tomahawk. In 1972, the parish decided to engage a vicar to live and work in Tomahawk. Vicar Ed Mohns was assigned to the parish. He was followed by Vicar Ron Mayan in 1974, and Vicar Mike Brewer in 1975. On January 15, 1976, at a Parish meeting, Immanuel, Tomahawk proposed calling their own pastor who would also have special duties in connection with the Lake Isle Camp. At a subsequent meeting, they voted to sever their parish ties with Emmaus. Pastor Schmidt submitted his resignation to them on February 5, but continued to serve them until their pastor, Ron Mayan, arrived.

With the exception of some moving expenses, the congregation never received subsidy. Although contributions increased steadily every year, a downward swing in the economy and "levelling off" of the "oil boom" around Drayton Valley meant some financial hard times for the congregation. A program to alleviate this problem was initiated. The David Plan proved to be a boon. Contributions for 1972 had risen to $17,000. In 1973 they increased over 100% to $36,500. About this time another "oil find" was made, west of the Pembina River. Another boom was on the way. In 1974, the debt on the church was paid.

With facilities strained to the limit for many years and now debt free, the congregation decided to expand its facilities. On April 27, 1975 a service of celebration and mortgage burning ceremony were held. Pastor John Karlen and Dr. W.C. Eifert were guest speakers. A building fund was established and plans made to build an addition to the church. On May 3, 1976, Adam Eckert, Don Pearson and Bob Dykes were appointed to a building committee. A fund raising program was initiated and construction began in late May. Work continued throughout the summer and into the winter of 1977. Dedication services were held May 1, 1977. Pastor Dale Mohr was the guest speaker. Construction costs were around $68,000. The addition has a full basement with five classrooms. The main floor has a classroom, mother's room, large foyer, office, workroom and overflow area for 100 people. The entire addition and the church are carpeted. Seating capacity with the overflow is now about 250 people.

After almost 5 years, Pastor Schmidt accepted a Call to Wisconsin. He held his last service on January 14, 1979. Several Calls were extended to pastors in the "field". Herb Heinemann accepted the Call in May and began his pastoral duties on June 1. He was installed by Pastor W. Schoepp of Stony Plain on August 26, 1979.

On November 4, 1984, the congregation celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Dedication of the original church building with a special service of worship. The Rev. Dr. Norman Threinen, Professor of History and Dean of Students at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, was the guest speaker. By 1986, the congregation had retired the debt on the addition that was opened in May, 1976.

On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the founding of Emmaus Lutheran Church, a special service of worship was held. During the service the anniversary was commemorated and the mortgage on the addition was burned. Dr. George Rode, former church district president, was the guest speaker.

During the remainder of the 1980's, congregational life continued with the usual ups and downs. Reflecting the demographics in our society, Emmaus Lutheran church membership, on the average, was getting older. The building and facilities were not compatible with those who had disabilities. In the fall of 1995 discussion ensued around how to make the church building handicap accessible. By early December, the decision was taken to install a handicap elevator. Funds were raised and construction began in March, 1996. Adam Eckert served as foreman and primary builder with numerous volunteers from the congregation. The actual elevator was installed in April. In July, the church parking lot was paved. On October 6 a special service of worship was held with Dr. H. Ruf, district President as guest speaker. During the service the elevator was dedicated and the 40th Anniversary of the Founding of the congregation was commemorated. At the end of the service, Dr. Ruf also made a special presentation to Pastor Herb Heinemann on the occasion of his 35th Anniversary of Ordination into the Holy Ministry.

For some years the original front doors of the church building had not been used. In addition they were in bad need of repair. After considering various options, the congregation made the decision in May, 1999, to build a small annex to the front of the church building which would encase the cement steps and landing as a foundation. The double doors and wall was removed creating an alcove-annex area approximately 10' x 11'. The entire south inside elevation is window with the center panel being stained glass. The project was directed by Adam Eckert with volunteers from the congregation doing most of the construction. The stained glass window, dedicated in memory of Dianne Baker, was constructed by Adam Eckert with Dave Ellery and Peter Jacobs contributing their expertise in the design phase. Since 1999 was the 40th Anniversary of the dedication of the original church building, a special service of worship was held on October 31. The Rev. Dale Mohr of Estevan, Saskatchewan, and former pastor, was the guest speaker. At the beginning of the service Pastor Herb Heinemann led the congregation in dedicating the annex and stained glass window.

Pastor Herb Heinemann retired in December 2000, after the Christmas services and has gone to Australia to serve as relief pastor. Pastor John Estes of Evansburg is acting as vacancy Pastor, assisted by retired Pastor Heinz Hetwick. Also assisting from the Concordia Seminary is Mark Dressler.

LUTHERAN KINDERGARTEN

In the fall of 1969 the Drayton Valley Kindergarten Association contracted with Emmaus Lutheran Church to use the church basement for five mornings a week, to conduct kindergarten classes. These classes were continued until the end of the school term in 1971.

On February 23, 1971 a special meeting was held to discuss the possibility of operating a kindergarten sponsored by the congregation. All those present at that meeting agreed to the proposal. At a voters meeting March 3, it was resolved to apply for a teacher candidate from Synod. Duties would be to teach the kindergarten and assist with Bible classes, youth work and other activities in the congregation.

Miss Anita Huebner was assigned to the congregation in May. Assuming her duties in August, she began the first kindergarten classes in September with 22 children. These classes were held five mornings a week. In addition to that, afternoon nursery school classes with 20 children enrolled. Miss Huebner served until the end of the school term, in 1973.

The first Church Sponsored Kindergarten: Miss Anita Huebner (teacher), Dean Mulgrew, Lyle Moltzan, Colleen Wall, Alan Schollmaier, Michel Sowanda, Trent Sullivan, Keith Bills, Janette deJonge, Jerry Greiner, Carla Kuzio, Andrew Ellert, Brent McCarthy, Carol Nickell, Harvy Miner, Carolyn Eckert, Wayne Pantzer, Kathy Madsen, David Solomon. Not Pictured Jody Lenihan and Curtis Bengston.

Another teacher was assigned to the congregation in May 1973. Miss Susan Yelden assumed her duties in August and served for three years until the end of the school term in 1976. With the entrance of the Provincial Government into the kindergarten programs in Alberta, through the Early Childhood Services branch of the Department of Education, the kindergarten program of the congregation started to consider another direction. An ECS committee was organized in the winter of 1975. Government grants were obtained and the kindergarten started the 1975-76 year under the ECS program of the province. In August 1976 Linda Henry was engaged as teacher but resigned at the end of March 1977. Phyllis Kupsch started teaching in April and completed the school term. In September 1977 she continued the program. Brigid Mulgrew was engaged as a teachers aide. The program then expanded to

both morning and afternoon classes. Enrollments were always filled quickly from a waiting list. There were 25 children in each class.

In the spring of 1990, after 19 years of operation, the kindergarten program was discontinued. With the opening of the community kindergarten at Eldorado School, it was not possible to sustain the program in the church. Most of the equipment and materials were either sold or donated to the community kindergarten.

DRAYTON VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

Prior to the discovery of oil in the Drayton Valley area, there were two churches meeting the spiritual needs of the local Protestants. The first one was the Church of God. Mr. And Mrs. Dodson from Minnesota took up a homestead here in 1912. They started a Sunday School in their log cabin and from that beginning grew the Church of God. This fellowship is still active in Drayton Valley.

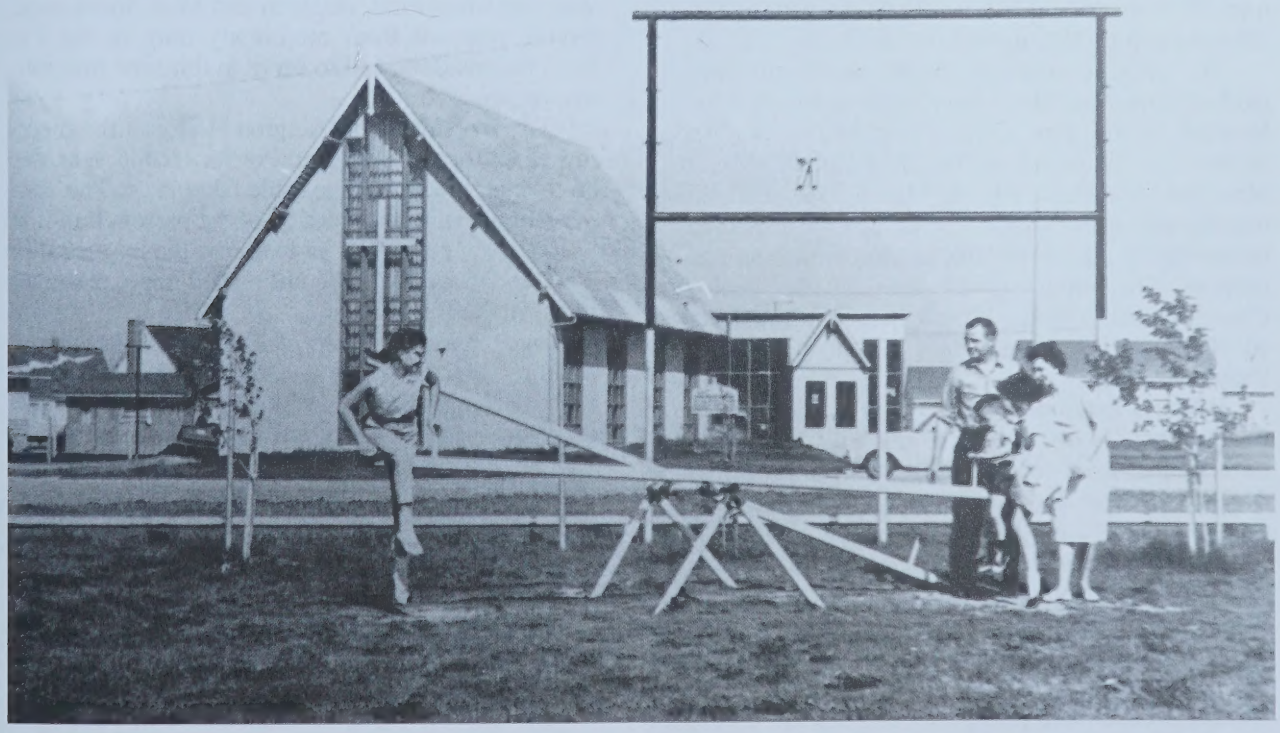
In the 1930's, the Anglican Church of Canada began a mission church in Drayton Valley. They built a residence for a nurse and a deaconess, and a small church building for Worship Service. The Anglican Church nurse provided all the medical assistance anyone could get unless they traveled to Entwistle.

The population had increased sufficiently to require the government to put up a school. By 1945, following WWII, the community had grown to about 75 people. It had two grocery stores, a variety store, a post office, a four room school, and a café.

This situation was soon to change. In 1953, the Socony Vacuum Company discovered oil on the SW of 16-48-8 W5, the homestead of Mr. Dave Glen. This started a rush of activity by most of the oil exploration companies in North America. Drilling rigs and people of every kind, and from across much of North America, began to converge on this tiny hamlet, where there was no extra housing of any kind. It was a boom town, the likes of which may never be seen again.

Dr. Hart, Superintendent of United Church of Canada Home Missions, visited the area in November of 1954. He estimated there were about 10,000 people in the Drayton Valley area. He found there were people living in tents, in skid shacks, in vehicles, and even in culverts. The lack of housing, the excessive rain and deplorable mud made living conditions something you had to see to believe.

Mrs. Martha Jones and Mrs. Isan were having coffee in the café one evening, and Martha Jones raised the question of possibly beginning a United Church. They decided to approach Miss Rosa Walters, the school principal, to see if she could render some assistance. From that concern shared over a cup of coffee, the Drayton Valley United Church began.



Drayton Valley United Church

United Church under construction 1957

A meeting was arranged at the home of Mrs. Cora Mustard in September 1954. Seven ladies got their heads together – Mrs. Cora Mustard, Mrs. Martha Jones, Mrs. Edith Deby, Mrs. Anne LaCasse, Mrs. Olie Isan, Miss Rosa Walters, and Mrs. Velma Sowerby. Mrs. Mustard was elected President of their organization.

The first step was to contact others to see what interest and support could be discovered. Miss Walters volunteered to contact Edmonton Presbytery for guidance and the assistance of clergyman to conduct worship services in the school.

In the spring of 1955, a theological student, Mr. Zenke, conducted a few services before he was ordained and was posted to his first charge. He was followed by Mr. Don Bright, a university student with no theological training. He lived in the basement of Howard and Eleanor Pickup's new house. He served from May to August, 1955.

The diligent works of the Women's Auxiliary paid off. Mr. And Mrs. Harry Zolmer, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Pickup, Mrs. & Mrs. Don McDonald, Mr. & Mrs. Art Dixon, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Rundle, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Cull, and Mr. & Mrs. L. Marshall all became active and dedicated participants, providing leadership in the growth and sense of mission and purpose. This progress was noted by the United Church Board of Home Missions and they appointed Mr. Wm. Sayer as regular student supply for Drayton Valley.

Bill was beginning his last year of training for the ministry. He had previous experience in helping to establish new congregations in the city of Calgary, so was an excellent choice to serve the needs of a new congregation in Drayton Valley.

The Drayton Valley United Church was properly constituted on November 28, 1955. Dr. D.J.C. Elson, Chairman of the Edmonton Presbytery, and Dr. E.J. Thompson of St. Stephen's College, conducted the service at which 37 people signed the Charter Membership pledge. Of the original charter members, Mrs. Eleanor Pickup and Mrs. Marjorie Brennan, still attend church services in the church they helped to establish, as of February 2000.

Rev. William Sayer was ordained in May of 1956 and became Drayton Valley United church's first ordained minister on June 14, 1956.

Land for a new church building was donated by Mr. John McKenzie Sr. A manse (home for the minister) was built first. Then after a great deal of hard work, organization and fund-raising, the building was completed and was officially dedicated on October 20, 1957.

During the ministry of Rev. Hugh Bayne and with the help of Mr. Earl Kelly, the Drayton Valley United Church's debts were paid off. Rev. Hugh, in addition to being a fine minister, was also a fine business man and had the right assistance in Mr. Earl Kelly.

During the ministry of Rev. Robert Aldrich and with Mr. Neil Samis, Chairman of the building committee, a new hall – "The Christian Education Wing", part of the original architectural plans, was completed. It has been a great improvement to church activities and many happy events have been held there in succeeding years.

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

In the year 1960, the Drayton Valley assembly realized its beginning when several resident families approached the District Superintendent with the request for the formation of a church. The request was met when Miss Thiessen and Miss Shevkenek, having returned from missionary duty in the Far East, accepted the call to serve in this new missionary venture.

The Drayton Valley Legion Hall was the meeting place for the first year. For its second year, the congregation used the portable tabernacle. The congregation began construction of the present building in the autumn of 1961, moved into the basement in 1962 and moved into the unfinished upper premises in April 1963.

Under the leadership of Rev Kokot the church building was complete and the official dedication took place on May 30, 1965. The pastors who have served the congregation are Rev. A Sader, Rev. L. Kokot, Rev. R. Kemp, Rev. K. Smith, Rev. H. Osterhouse, Rev. G. Giles and Pastor C. Reid.

ST. ANTHONY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The first Sunday Masses were celebrated in 1954 when Father Joseph Sullivan came from Evansburg. They were celebrated in the Elk's Hall.

On June 19, 1955, the Catholic Women's League was formed. The first President was Mrs. Eva

Hennessey with Mrs. Phylis Reidl serving as Secretary-Treasurer. Fourteen charter members formed the group. The main function of the CWL was to help with catechism classes and to raise money for a church and rectory. This was undertaken by means of personal donations as well as catering, whist drives, bazaars, teas, bingo's and bake sales.

In 1956, the CWL sponsored the First Drayton Valley Girl Guide Troop with Mrs. Emmett Ryan as first leader.

The new church and rectory were completed and then blessed by Bishop Jordan. Two complete sets of altar vestments were donated by the Braniskis, two statues by the Dion and Serenas families and CWL donated the first tabernacle.

The second Pastor, Father L. Scriven came in 1957 and during his eight years of ministry new pews were installed and the major debts were paid. The year 1963 saw the formation of the Catholic Youth organization headed by Mr. and Mrs. Dunc. Larbalaster.

Rev. Basil Butts became pastor of the parish in 1964. St. Anthony's School came into existence at the time. The school began operation in January of 1965 and was officially opened and blessed by Archbishop Anthony Jordan on May 27 of the same year. The members of the original school board were Dean Meraw, John Shanley, Betty McGee, Terrance Mulgrew and Louie Serenas. The year 1964 also saw the formation of the mens club.

In September of 1965, Rev Father Ed Lynch arrived as the new parish pastor. In this year also the Knights of the Altar were formed.

The Parish Council came into existence in 1966. The construction of the new rectory was begun. Rev. Matthais Kuefler arrived as the new Pastor of St. Anthony's in 1972. Under his leadership the rectory debt was paid and a building fund for a new church was established. The new church stands today as a very prominent building on 50th Avenue.

CHAPTER FOUR
Businesses

KELLY'S PUMP SERVICE
Written by Ella Kelly

Earl Kelly hired on with Socony Vacuum, in the spring of 1954, the company since known as Mobil Oil. He worked there for ten years as roustabout, pump maintenance, and battery operator. He drove thirteen miles to work each morning from the farm, in all kinds of weather, over all kinds of roads.

In 1964, he decided to go into business for himself doing pump jack maintenance. He took a course on Lytton pumps and a short business course.

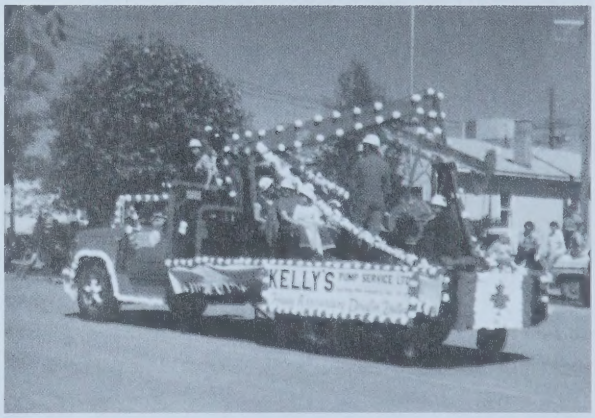
Earl Kelly

He then set up "Kelly's Pump Service", his office being in the old Slumberger Building on the corner of 50 St. and 54 Ave. His was the first pump maintenance company in the Drayton Valley area. A welder from Mobil Oil was a big help in getting the first truck set up, putting on the deck, gin poles and the tool boxes.

All our savings went into the company, which set us back to hard times again. Oil companies were slow to pay, and in the mean time, Earl had a hard time keeping up with the payroll and buying supplies.

Pump Jack

He started out with one employee and himself, later hiring Gordon Davidson and our son, Joe Kelly. Gordon had been doing oil field work since he was sixteen, doing maintenance work, drilling rigs, etc. Earl Siebels came to work. He was a neighbour and a friend, having taken over his father's homestead a mile west of our farm. Earl proved to be a valuable employee. He was a quick learner in anything mechanical, and got along well with the younger men. Some of the younger men were Philias "Charlie" Boulanger, Dan Howat, Russell Greenwood, Pat Cole and Bruce Block.

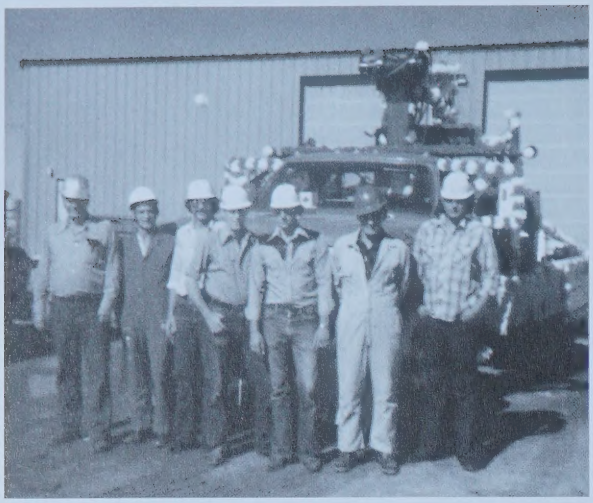


Kelly's Pump Service truck in Rodeo parade

Kelly's had more trucks and more work by this time. There were now three, three ton trucks, a clean up truck and for 3 or 4 seasons, a steamer.

Fred Davidson and Carl Anderson were on the clean up truck for some time. Both being older men, both retired at age seventy, or close to that age. Ole Peterson and Lynn Criss took over for sometime. These four men were hard working, dependable men.

Kelly's Pump Service bought two lots on 54 St., where Dial is now located, with a small office building on it where space for a good big shop, pile racks and parking was available. Some of the work was far from home, Redwater, Fort St. John, Slave Lake,



Kelly's Pump Service employees ready for Rodeo parade

Rocky Mountain House, Rimbey and Niton. The men stayed where the work was and had their room and board paid for.

Some of Kelly's employees in front of their larger trucks

Secretaries for Kelly's Pump Service were Betty McCullagh, Joan Swap, Sheila Roos, Lu Taylor and Lynn Martin.

In 1975, the rumors came out that the world was running out of energy. A shortage of oil, no more electricity, no gas! All false of course. But the price of oil shot up, wages escalated at an unheard pace, from $1.50 to $2.00-4.00 an hour until in six years, wages were $12.00-14.00 an hour. Earl had a hard time adjusting to these wage leaps, after all he had lived through, the 30's and even in the 40's and 50's, wages had not climbed that much. This sudden leap kept him wondering what prices to charge for pump work. The prices were set by himself, so much for each job, and what size truck was needed.

Later, it all "went to bid". Maintenance companies were under bidding one another until no one was making money. About this time, October 12,

Kelly's Pump Service yard – trucks large and small

1980, Earl suffered an aneurysm in the main artery, the aorta. He was rushed to the University Hospital where he went under open heart surgery. He lived, but was a long time in the hospital and longer in the Aberhart taking therapy, learning to live in a wheel chair. In the meantime, our son, Joe, took over as general manager of the company with Charlie Boulanger as foreman. I'm sure Joe had a rough time, but managed the company for six years.

Earl was in the process of purchasing a double wide trailer to use as an office when he went to the hospital. Joe and the hired men put in piling and had the building moved on to Kelly's property that same fall. Plenty of room now, for office space, a lunch room, and storage space, etc.

In the early 80's, young men were coming from eastern Canada looking for work, Joe hired several young fellows that came. Gary Osbourne, Dennis Poissant, and Terry Sullivan. They have all made Alberta and Drayton Valley area their home. They all found work with other companies, married and are raising families.

Kelly's Pump Service auction sale in the fall of 1985

Three of the Kenworthy boys worked summers for Kelly's Pump Service: Harvey, Brian and Steven. Grant Ward was a company welder for a number of years. The company went to more modern equipment in the 80's: from Gin Poles to hydraulic pickers. The price of the equipment sky-

rocketed, too. Trucks more than doubled in price and have more than doubled again.

The fall of 1985, Earl decided to sell out, as he was unable to continue and Joe was tired of the responsibility. The sale date was for March 6, 1986. The men were good at helping sort and clean equipment. Some who had other jobs, came to help. Joe and Earl were more than grateful.

Not a snowflake fell through January and February, 1986, but on the evening of March 5, a foot and a half of heavy wet snow came down, blanketing everything. Trucks had to be cleaned off. The yard had to be snow ploughed and worst of all the highways were closed to traffic. Buyers who were coming in from out of town weren't able to get here.

So when the sale started, bidding wasn't great and a lot of the trucks and equipment went much too cheap. Earl was greatly disappointed, but what was done was done, and he never complained or spoke of it afterwards.

Ella, Earl and Joe Kelly

Earl lived another eight years and had many health problems. He passed away January 5, 1993, at the age of 77. At his funeral, friends and employees came with condolences and words of appreciation, such as, "never had a better friend", Earl ran an honest outfit.

Joe went into business for himself doing pump jack maintenance, but hasn't expanded to more than one truck and one helper. He and his wife, Carol, still live on his grandfather's homestead, and have raised a family of three.

I still live in the house in Drayton Valley that we bought in 1972 from Art and Virginia Monroe. Time has a way of slipping by. As times change, people do too.

LONG'S FUNERAL SERVICES

Robert Long was born in Ranfurly, Alberta, the son of a Grain Buyer. He began his career in the Funeral business in 1948 when he joined the staff of Andrews McLaughlin of Edmonton as a summer student. He later apprenticed and received his embalmer's license in 1953. In 1968, he joined Foster & McGarvey to assume a management role. He remained with the firm for 6 years. After much deliberation, he moved his family to Drayton Valley, in 1975, to open his own funeral home.

Robert and his wife Susan opened the first phase of Long's Funeral Services on October 4, 1975. This was Drayton's first funeral home. Upon moving to Drayton Valley, the Long's became involved in the community. Robert was elected to Town Council, served on the Hospital Board for the new hospital, was Chairman of the Police Commission and was active with the Rotary Club. Both were members of the United Church, where Susan enjoyed singing in the choir.

Susan and Bob Long in the Chapel of Long's Funeral Home

When the Longs were well established, they felt their facilities were no longer adequate to provide the services required. In the spring of 1981, plans were completed and construction began on a chapel to seat 160 people, a structure that had been requested many times. The expansion more than doubled the size of the funeral home. Construction was completed in March, 1982.

The Grand Opening was a family event. Over the years, the entire family had contributed to the success of the business. The Long's son, Brent, and daughter, Jodi, held the ribbon during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

In 1987, they decided to sell their business to have more time for themselves. They stayed in Drayton Valley for another 4 years, then moved to High River. The Long's settled into a home on a golf course to pursue their favorite pastime. Both of their children are married. Brent has 3 children and lives in Courtenay, BC, where he manages a Funeral Home. Jodi lives in Calgary, AB and works in the computer industry.

Grand opening of Long's Funeral Chapel

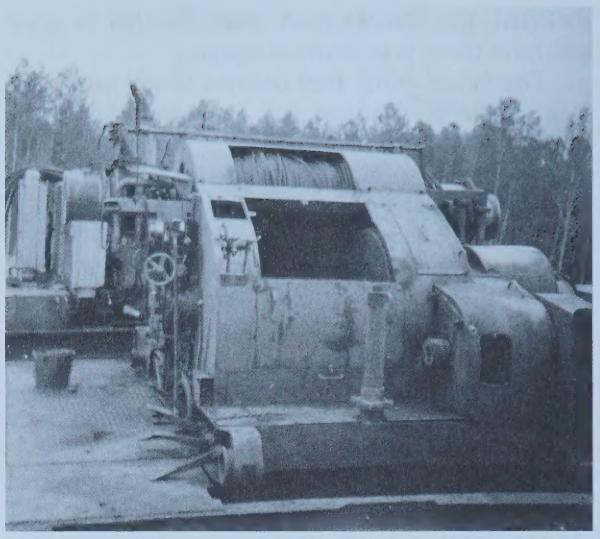
The Longs enjoyed their years in Drayton Valley and often come back to visit with friends.

PEMBINA PIPELINE

Pembina Pipeline was formed as a Ltd. Co. in November, 1954. The founder of the company was Fred Mannix who initially owned the controlling interest in the company.

Fred and his father before him had been in the heavy construction business. Fred Mannix Sr. had started the business in 1898 building railroad and grade with horses and mules in Manitoba. The Mannixes participated in many major construction projects in Canada and the US in the next 50 years.

The sole purpose for creating Pembina was to carry out the transportation of the expected crude oil production from the newly discovered Pembina field to Edmonton by pipeline.



Draw works of a drilling rig

Previous to this time, upon the discovery of an oilfield, it was customary for the oil companies to form a pipeline company which would transport the oil. The ownership of Pembina by a construction company was unique and unusual, probably throughout North America. Pembina Pipeline was seen in the pipeline transportation industry as somewhat of a renegade, with no proper right to be in the business.

Bringing in the sub structure of a drilling rig

Pembina obtained the right to own and operate the pipeline system from the Provincial Government in the form of a short letter from the Dept. of Highways authorizing Pembina to proceed. It is interesting to consider what would be required today to launch a project of this nature. Typically an application today would include many volumes of Engineering studies, Environmental work, economics, Reservoir calculations, all of this followed by

hours and hours of extremely expensive hearings involving high-priced lawyers, consultants and with the permit in hand, Pembina proceeded to have the necessary initial pipelines installed. The actual construction was carried out by the Mannix Construction Co. and other contractors under Pembina's direction as to routing, design, etc. The initial projects included the main pump station and a 16 inch main line to Edmonton. Many millions of dollars had to be spent up front to initiate the system. Very few oilwells had been drilled and very little was known with respect to the size of the field. Additionally there were serious concerns with respect to the actual production methods. The Cardium formation, from which the oil is produced, was classified as very tight with very small spaces for oil, and many experts had serious doubts as to the viability of sustained production. A method called sand fracturing was developed however, which successfully opened up the formation to production.

Pembina crude oil contains a significant percentage of paraffin. This factor also caused concern as the crude oil would form a jelly-like consistency as the temperature dropped below 40 degrees F. Some experts thought it would be impossible to pump this material. In the face of all these unknowns, Pembina proceeded.

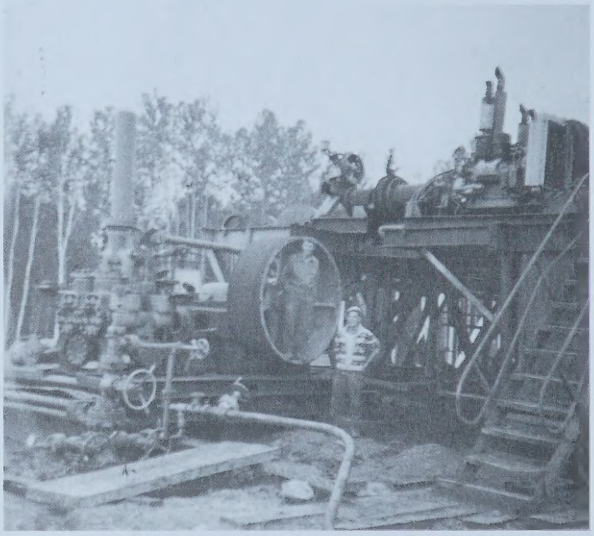
On November 15, 1954, the first barrels of oil were received into the pipeline on behalf of the purchaser, Imperial Oil. This initial transfer took place at Mobil Oil's crude oil battery DV #7 which is located across the highway west of the lumber mill storage yard. A telephone link-up was arranged between Pembina's Manager, Ken McMillan, at the battery site and Premier Manning at the McDonald Hotel.

Moving a drilling rig near Lodgepole to a new location

The conversation was scripted, however Pembina's Manager temporarily lost the paper and there were several frantic moments until it was found. The ceremony was duly conducted however, and Pembina was launched. There was actually no way for the oil to be delivered, the main line to Edmonton was not completed.

It was not until January, 1955, that the first delivery of 9,700 barrels of oil to Edmonton was made. Development was very rapid following start-up and in November, 1955, 1,870,000 barrels were delivered. By this time there were 245 miles of pipeline in operation servicing 730 producing oilwells. The number of employees had risen to 129.

Within five years, by 1959, Pembina was transporting 103,400 BPD or 37,770,000 barrels for the year. There were 3,150 wells serviced by the system network of 650 miles.



Old style drilling rig

During the following years production increased slowly to a peak of 164,937 BPD in 1971. At this time, there was a total of 1,045 miles of pipeline installed.

Production began to slowly decline after 1971 until production from the West Pembina area started in 1977. This new field lying approximately 50 miles west of DV was an extremely important addition to the pipeline system. The old fields had declined to under 100,000 BPD but as West Pem came on stream, production began to increase and rose to a peak of 182,925 BPD by 1988.

In May of 1978, Pembina shipped the 1,000,000,000th barrel of oil through its system. During 1997 this figure topped the 2,000,000,000th barrel..

In 1963, Pembina started to develop an Oil &

Gas production and Exploration department. Initially this was accomplished by purchasing existing oil & gas operations. Later, Pembina purchased oil and gas drilling rights and began an exploration program.

Several major purchases over the years increased this part of the company dramatically. Several hundred gas wells and related facilities which lie on the bottom of Lake Erie were acquired.

Western Decalta became part of Pembina. This purchase included a large interest in the old Turner Valley field. In October/97 all oil & gas production was sold off and Pembina Pipeline became an income trust as the Mannix Family restructured all of their assets.

Burning surplus gas and oil in a flare pit late 1950's

In 1980, Pembina purchased the Peace Pipeline system. This pipeline system extends from Edmonton northwest to Dawson Creek with extentions to Utikuma Lake, Sturgeon Lake and many other oil and gas fields. Peace Pipe has about 1,400 miles of pipeline and ships 180,000 BPD of various products.

Pembina was still a public company in the late 1980's, the only company in the group that was not privately owned. In 1988, all the publicly traded shares were purchased by the Mannix family and the company became private.

In the early years it was not possible to obtain mortgages for houses in DV and living accommodations were limited and deplorable. Consequently Pembina constructed housing for its employees. Travel was very difficult so houses and apartments were built in Buck Creek and Lodgepole as well as in DV and rented to the employees.

Later, after the roads improved, the houses in Buck Creek and Lodgepole were moved to DV and

Len Charbonneau, area foreman

most operations were centered in DV. Still later the housing was all sold to the employees. Prices ranged from 12 to 15 thousand dollars each.

Pembina has always had a high regard for safety. This has resulted in 41 years of operation without any accidental deaths and very few serious injuries. Many employees hold significant safe driving records of 30 plus years, while driving many thousands of miles under all road conditions and weather.

Dave Ellery at Pembina River "6" crossing

Over the years, Pembina employees were active in the community.

- Construction of the original curling rink
- Development of the golf course
- Leadership in figure skating and swimclub
- Fire department
- Town council
- Juvenile hockey
- Service clubs
- Churches

Slim White was in charge of Pembina in Drayton Valley in the early years and until his early death in 1974. Slim provided strong leadership and dedication to Pembina and it is largely through his efforts that Pembina has been successful.

Sid Mitchell is another employee who stands out in the early years of Pembina. Unfortunately he too passed away at an early age, but he made a significant contribution to the organization and to the community. It was Sid who started the Pipeliner hockey team of juvenile players and he worked hard to keep the team going.

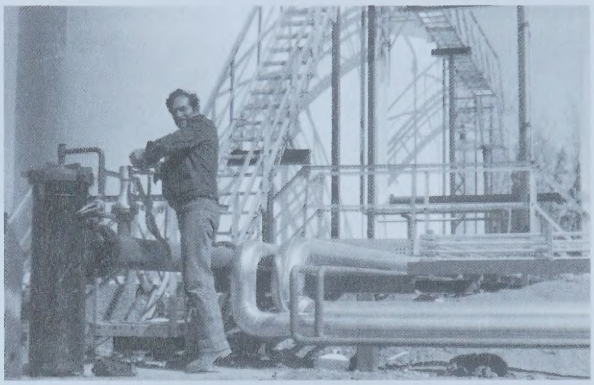
Many other long-term employees have made a significant contribution to Pembina's success over the past 45 years. This includes names such as – Larry Gano, John Poloway, Al Horne, Reg Samis, Don Fontana, Joe Balen, Cliff Erickson, Ron Howatt, John Reid, Howard Cathrea, Charlie Miner and Marie Leniuk, all of whom are now retired, many with 40+ years of service. Present day local management includes Sandy Buchan, Hal Anker, Pete Donnelly, Bob Whaley, Al Disney, Glen Nash, Vern Willett, Ed Hutzal and Marg Rendflesh.

It is a remarkable feature of Pembina that many employees have stayed with the company for their entire working life. In these times it is unusual to see this level of loyalty by employees and it is a measure of the reciprocal loyalty displayed by the owners, that creates this kind of success.

To honour long-term employees the company started a quarter century club about eight years ago. All employees, both past and present, who have completed 25 years with the group are members. Each year in September a luncheon is put on in Calgary to which all members are invited.

Clearing a lease in the bush

September 1989 – Chevron #6 – oil change and tune up by Dave Ellery



March 1980 – Dave Ellery, at New Pacific Battery

Rex Gray setting up for pressure test

Dennis Martin cleaning around valve to do a Hot Tap job

Rex Gray, Dennis Martin clean up after a stuck pig at Stanolin G-4

Dave Ellery checking an automatic shipping meter unit

Dave Ellery (1960) pressure testing line 24 hour test chart

BUCK CREEK FRACTIONATION PLANT
1957 -1978

The Buck Creek fractionation plant had its beginnings in 1957, when Harry W. Bass of Dallas, Texas formed Goliad Oil and Gas Company to build and operate the Pembina Gas Conservation Project. the project was a significant step forward in energy conservation – gas, being a by-product of oil, was then being flared. Approximately $20 million was invested in pipelines and plant facilities for flare-gas conservation, a project unequalled in scope at that time.

In January 1977, Amoco Canada Petroleum Company Ltd., in partnership with Dome Petroleum Ltd., acquired the Canadian assets of Goliad Oil and Gas Company. Many of the Goliad employees who were instrumental in establishing this co-operative project are now employed by Amoco.

Sixty-eight producers in the Pembina oilfield contract gas to the project from as far away as Niton, 50 miles northwest of Drayton Valley. The gas is separated from the oil by the produces at numerous wells and battery sites throughout the field. The gas, containing natural gas liquids, is then collected by the Pembalta gas gathering systems which lead to the Pembalta gas stations. Seven Pembalta stations separate the gas and natural gas liquids. The gas is sold to North-western Utilities. Natural gas liquids are delivered by pipeline to the Buck Creek fractionation plant.

Through a series of towers, vessels, and surge tanks, the gas liquids are separated into propanes, isobutanes, normal butanes and pentanes-plus, and the finished products are shipped by truck, tank car and pipeline. The pipeline marketing system is connected to the Inter-provincial Pipeline network which terminates at Sarnia. Tank cars carry products to Quebec, Washington, Utah, California and other locations.

Propane is a familiar heating fluid, and normal butanes are used as cellufibres in the manufacture of synthetic wools (fortrel, nylon, rayon) plastics and filters. Isobutanes and pentanes-plus are used primarily by refineries for blending and upgrading gasoline.

The fractionation plant runs 24 hours a day, and is staffed by ten full-time employees. An average daily inlet of 3,500 barrels is processed through the plant.

ROYAL BANK IN DRAYTON VALLEY
Written by Maria Johnson

The story that follows is a brief history of the Royal Bank in Drayton Valley. To be more precise,

it is really just a glimpse into the lives of a few of the many people who were or are currently employed there. While there is some mention of policies and procedures and premises and products, it is the people that create interest and bring the story to life.

The Royal Bank has been serving the financial needs of the people of Drayton Valley since 1954 when the area was attracting workers by the thousands with the discovery of the Pembina oil fields. The first branch, which was the first bank in the community, was actually a sub-branch of the Evansburg office and was housed from April until late December 1954 in a portion of the Red and White store. Evansburg Manager, Bill Wood, along with a couple of his staff would travel the thirty mile dirt road two days a week, packing money, ledgers, cheques and all other essentials into suitcases and parcels each trip. Operating the branch in this manner was quite a challenge. Arrival in Drayton Valley was scheduled for 9:30 for all to be ready for the 10:00 a.m. opening. Within minutes of opening the doors the bank was usually full with customers. As well it was necessary to work around the rule that there always be at least two staff on duty. Bill Wood liked to eat lunch out at one of Drayton Valley's two restaurants as a means of keeping in touch with his customers while the others would have their bag lunch in the office in between serving customers. The bank closed at 3:00 p.m. with departure scheduled for 3:30 and the day's accounting to begin at 4:40 back in Evansburg. When it was dry the trip was rather uneventful; however, the rains came often turning the narrow road into a sea of mud.

Progress was slow and delays were common due to transports, oil trucks and heavy road equipment often clogging up the road. It was not uncommon to pass numerous trucks in the ditch. At times arrival back in Evansburg was 6:30 p.m. or later with the day's work still to be completed.

The temporary office was closed down when the bank moved into the new and larger quarters in the recently completed Drayton Valley Hotel in late 1954. The volume of business had increased to warrant daily service thus the bank appointed Jim Stewart as Manager, a position he filled from January until December 1955. Mr. Stewart was known to work hard and do his job well despite difficult working conditions and an apparent shortage of staff. A long time resident of Drayton Valley, Mrs. Marian McKenzie, whose husband Don opened one of the first accounts with the financial institution, recalls that "it was really quite wild at times because he didn't have enough staff'. She remembers cramped quarters, shoe boxes for files, tremendous lineups and having to wait endlessly. As well Mrs. McKenzie said, "in the early days there was only one phone line into the town which was often monopolized by the oil companies". Imagine running any business today with no means of communication.

Replacing Jim Stewart was Jim Cunnin who arrived in the boom town in December 1955. The young man, originally from Regina, had been with

Royal Bank staff 1962. Front Row L to R, May Barker, Angela Hutchinson, Beth Brown, Iris Hicks, Ruth Luke; Back Row L to R, Jerry McCoy, Dolores Stewart, Joyce Reidlinger, Sam Parenteau, Jim Cunnin, Dee Goubault, Leah Lysak, Frank Nolan

the Royal Bank since 1940 and had seen a considerable amount of country having worked in eighteen other branches throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan prior to Drayton Valley. As well as having the reputation of being an intelligent, fair, hardworking banker, Mr. Cunnin was very community minded being an enthusiastic member of the Lions Club, the Chamber of Commerce and a trustee of St. Anthony's Catholic church

Under Mr. Cunnin's term as Manager he hired Dee Goubault as Secretary in September 1957. Dee worked her way through many positions until she became Manager, Independent Business and Agriculture, the posting she held when she retired in February 1984 after 27 years of service. Dee, who now lives in Leduc, recalls that at the time she was hired the staff numbered eleven and space was very limited. Excess bank stationery was stored in spare cupboards in the hotel. Staff utilized the washrooms in the hotel lobby.

Joining the Royal Bank right out of school in 1958 was Emma Kendrick (nee Shepel) who still works there today. She had received a letter from the bank advising of an available teller position. Emma was hired immediately and she became one of the two tellers in the branch. Dee and Emma well remember banking before the speed and efficiency of today's technology. All entries were posted manually as were the monthly statements. Personal chequing and current accounts were posted on two machines by operators and savings accounts were hand posted by the tellers. At the end of April and October each year interest on savings accounts was calculated with a pencil and paper. And if the books didn't balance right to the last cent at the end of each day the entire staff would remain at work until the outage was found. Also in those days it was the local staff, not armoured Brinks personnel, that made regular trips to Edmonton for cash orders.

Since the bank was open until 6:00 p.m. Fridays it was necessary to close between 3:00 and 4:00 in the afternoon to post all transactions from earlier in the day. While it took several staff to complete the task the others enjoyed the opportunity to relax over coffee in the hotel cafeteria Emma recalls being extremely busy at times during the oil boom days. Customers were sometimes lined up for a block or more. Emma said, "The roughnecks, derrick hands and other oil patch workers would usually get paid on Friday. We didn't have enough money to cash their entire paycheque so we would keep track of how much we gave out and ask them to come back

The Royal Bank staff in early 1999. Front Row L to R, Joan MacMillan, Emma Kendrick, Angela Hutchinson, Gloria Lindsey, – Second Row, Rhonda Davidson, Nicole York-Joly, – Standing, Colette Solomon, Maria Johnson, Anne Thompson, Jackie Lovell, Leah Walker, Debbie Wedge, Tammy Erickson, Terri Brigden, Troy Laursen, Wayne Current, Bridget Hiebert, Shelina Esmail, Thea Manders, Karen Hartman

Monday for the remainder. This we would get in from merchant deposits"

Employee medical, dental and insurance benefits were non-existent in the early days of the bank. Emma kept secret her first pregnancy for fear of having to quit her job. She planned to share her news when she could no longer hide the fact. Then one day when flowers arrived for a bank occasion, Mr. Cunnin amusingly mentioned how they were for Emma for Mothers Day - next year. The secret was out. Emma left the bank in June 1962 to raise her three children. She was hired back in 1976.

The population of Drayton Valley was continuing to grow and so in turn was the bank's business. Larger premises were required and a new building of approximately 3,600 square feet went up on main street in 1959 next to the recently constructed Hudson's Bay Company store. Dee Goubault remembers, "The new space was wonderful. We had two vaults, a lunch room and our own washrooms!" A news article from a November 1959 issue of *"The Pembina News Advertiser"* reported on the move, including; "Another brand-new feature is the Night Depository, which makes possible the deposit of cash, bills and other negotiable paper any time of the day or night, including weekends and holidays. The new equipment consists of a strong, specially built door in the outside wall of the branch, which is used in the same way as a letter or parcel post box. This new service is particularly useful to merchants and other business people who take in large sums of money during the latter part of the day". Dee also recalls that main street was paved around that same time which helped to cut down on the dust and mud.

Angela Hutchinson joined the Royal Bank in August 1962 as a teller and she has worked her way up through the ranks to her current position of Personal Banking Representative. She took a few years off between 1965 and 1972 to raise her family and experience life in Ft. St John, B.C. and Warburg, Alberta as her husband moved with his job. Angela has put in an amazing 31 years of dedicated service at Royal Bank and many people, customers and staff alike, will miss her expertise, her cheerful smile and her pleasant company when she retires in May 1999. Angela looks forwards to taking some painting lessons and spending more time on her farm with her cows, cats, dogs, and of course her husband John.

James Cunnin was transferred to Dryden, Ontario in September 1962. His replacement, Glen McLaughlin, worked in Drayton Valley until

Royal Bank staff (rodeo days) in the mid 1970's. Front Row L to R, Sandy Fertig, Anne Thompson, Shirley Brown, Jo-Ann Manysiak, Glenda Parenteau, Joyce Parenteau, Angela Hutchinson, Dee Goubault, Back Row L to R, Sherry Meaver Steve Sommerset, Brent Chaffey, Fay Banks, Terry Lapointe, Gloria Lindsey, Brenda Huska

February 1966 before going on to Terrace, B.C. Frank Neil took over as Manager from then until December 1969. He commented from his retirement home in Medicine Hat that he and his family enjoyed Drayton Valley and found it to be "definitely an oil town" and "a different environment" from their previous downtown Edmonton posting.

Anne Thompson is another woman whose name in synonymous with the Royal Bank. She joined the staff in August, 1966 as a file clerk, worked for a year then took time off to raise her two boys. Anne returned in May 1969 and progressed through a number of postings to her present position of Personal Banking Representative. To date she has also put in 31 years with Royal Bank. Anne is an avid curler, enjoys word games, but most of all, loves being involved with her sons and their families.

Replacing Frank Neil in late 1969 was John Hansen who came to love the area, despite the mud. He was determined to stay as long as possible and, in fact, remained Manager for 15 years, retiring here in 1985. It was during Mr. Hansen's years that the bank was once again on the move to larger premises where it is still located today. The formal ribbon cutting at the new 5,400 sq.ft. building at 5001 - 51 Ave. took place July 7, 1975. Sadly, Mr. Hansen and his wife Karol have passed away. Their daughters Val Thiessen and Donna Palmer with their families continue to live in Drayton Valley.

Jo-Ann Manysiak joined the branch in July 1970 as a file clerk. This smart, determined, hard working lady progressed through the ranks to become Assistant Manager Lending for Independent Business and Agriculture. Jo-Ann retired after more than 25 years of service to the Royal Bank. She is a fantastic seamstress, a knowledgeable hockey fan and she and her husband Frank have enjoyed visiting many exotic travel destinations

It's really quite a compliment to the Royal Bank to have so many staff members dedicate most and sometimes all of their working careers to one company. In addition to those already mentioned several women started with the organization in the late 1970's and early 1980's and are still there today, close to 20 and more years later. These include: Debbie Wedge, Business Wicket Representative (hired 1977), who is always cheerful and understanding and knows the answer to almost any question the tellers might have. Joan MacMillan, Business Services Officer (hired 1977), the sensible, smart lady who loves rock and roll and carries everything anyone might need in her purse; Laurie Lainchbury, Investment Retirement Planner (hired 1978), who consistently achieves phenomenal sales records and is often referred to as Drayton Valley's investment expert. Gloria Lindsey, Team Leader, Sales Support, Alberta North (worked 1971-1977 and rehired 1989), who often puts in many extra hours on special projects. She is another unending source of information for her co-workers. Karen Hartman, Manager, Sales Support Alberta North (hired 1980), the witty, fun loving, rodeo fan who is keeping the entire area organized and on track with Royal Bank's centralization project.

Karen is a wonderful source of information for relaying the humorous incidents of the past, many of which she is directly involved in. There is the time that the teller was helping the loans clerk post augments (deposits) to business accounts. The account manager had indicated by the letter "M" preceded by a number (1, 2, 3, etc.) that so many thousands of dollars ($1 M = $1,000) be added to certain accounts. The teller assumed that M mean million and so numerous businesses in town were suddenly very well heeled. Of course the loans department at the bank wasn't that way and the necessary corrections made immediately.

Another story involves Karen. One September she, as Manager, Customer Service at the time, and Mary Wilson, who was Area Manager, Customer Service and Operations, discussed whether or not the bank machine had enough money for the weekend. Mary said "Yes; Karen "No". Well, the bet was on and it was worth $100.00. Karen won; she got her money – all in pennies! Upon arrival at work one Monday morning she found her $100.00 mounded all over her desk and poured on the floor. Mary admitted, "I wanted to spray glue them to your desk but Doug (her husband) wouldn't let me". It took Karen pretty much the whole day to roll the dough. That's not quite the end of the story. Since the pennies were all shiny and new from the mint and shrink wrapped, Mary had to use a pair of sharp scissors to slice them open. Well, the scissors sliced more than the plastic. Mary cut her hand and subsequently required two stitches and a tetanus shot. Better betting next time

Back to more serious matters. After John Hansen retired Doug Nelson became Manager, His tenure in Drayton Valley spanned from September 1985 until March 1991. Possibly the most significant change in the branch during Mr. Nelson's time was the installation of the Personal Touch Banking machine in the summer of 1988 after two years of lobbying for the 24 hour service. In a newspaper article in "The Western Review' Mr. Nelson said he saw the machine as marking an end to the days when residents had to either fret about weekends without money or attempt to cash a cheque at a local grocery

store. As well as being a source of cash, the first bank machines enabled customers to make deposits, transfer between accounts, and make bill payments

Spacious interior of new Royal Bank 1975. The items here you won't see today are the typewriter, rotary dial phone and ashtray

In the mid 1980's Royal Bank began a staff suggestion initiative whereby employees are invited to summit recommendations on changes in procedures and policies, etc. that they feel are unnecessary or outdated. Any suggestions implemented by the bank result in a reward, up to $10,000 at that time, to the employee. While several suggestions from Drayton Valley staff were accepted the most profitable resulted in $10,000 being awarded to Bonnie Demers for her suggestion that staff discontinue counting loose coin in the coin tray for the weekly special balance.

In March 1991 the Royal Bank reorganized the previous Alberta North Region into several smaller areas. Drayton Valley became the area office for the branches in Evansburg, Whitecourt, Edson, and Hinton Hired to fill the new position of Area Manager and Manager, Drayton Valley, was Terry Hrycak, coming from a 10 year posting at Leduc. Many of the people from other branches who had worked for Terry in the past said basically, "You are very lucky to have a Manager like Terry. He's the best one we've had". Terry retired in August 1994 after an impressive 36 years with the Royal Bank, to a comfortable home he and his wife Jo built at Pigeon Lake. Terry called the time he spent in Drayton Valley "the period of the elimination of the typewriter' due to today's reliance on computers and technology. It was also the time of the robbery.

On Wednesday, June 30, 1993 at 9:30 a.m. two men met with Terry Hrycak and Senior Assistant Manager Francis Kinderwater under the pretense of applying for a loan. They produced what appeared to be a bomb and indicated they each had a handgun. The thieves very calmly explained they were here to get money and had no desire to hurt anyone. They were shown to the vault, took the cash and left the bank through the back door leaving behind the "bomb". Explosive experts from Edmonton arrived at 10:17 a.m. They used a remote control robot to remove the device which proved to be bogus. Although the aftermath of the robbery was emotionally draining for those involved the staff pulled together and helped one another deal with the traumatic event.

When Terry Hryeak retired the Area Manager position was filled by Grant Burr who remained in Drayton Valley from August 1994 until March 1997. Grant was a very personable, approachable man who made the rounds each day to say good morning and chat with the staff. Grant, who was transferred to St. Albert, is known to travel to Pigeon Lake to visit Terry Hrzeak where they spend lots of time on the water and have some good "fish" stories to tell

At the end of Grant Burrs time in Drayton Valley the Royal Bank again reorganized the Alberta North Region and the branch lost area office status which was moved to Edmonton. And things have come full circle. Evansburg became a subbranch of Drayton Valley. The office was substantially downsized, to four staff, becoming a sales unit as opposed to a full-service branch.

Wayne Current arrived in Drayton Valley as Manager in March 1997. With a wonderful sense of humor he provides leadership and ongoing support through the many changes occurring within the Royal Bank. Some of those changes that have most directly impacted customers over the past few years is the ability to bank by phone and via personal computer. And while the financial institution holds a very strong presence in the community Wayne is constantly working at attracting new business.

Two memorable, however, unhappy events occurred in early 1999. There was another bank robbery, the first ever in Evansburg . At noon on Thursday, April 8th, two men wearing nylons over their heads entered the Royal Bank, demanded money, and fled within a minute with an undisclosed amount of cash. The staff were unharmed. The other sad occasion was the death of Randy Parsons, Assistant Manager, Drayton Valley on Friday, April 16, 1999. Randy fought a courageous battle with stomach cancer and will long be remembered as a dedicated, kind, and always helpful coworker and friend as well as a wonderful father to Vanessa and Lisa and loving husband to Pam. Randy will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

To mention again, the Royal Bank is one of the busiest, most popular banks in the community. Of course, it got to be that way in part because the products and services offered are wanted and needed by the customers. But more importantly, it's the

people that have really contributed to the success of the Royal Bank. Their hard work, dedication, professionalism and unique and wonderful personalities are what have brought the organization to where it is today and will keep the Royal Bank moving forward into the next millennium

There are dozens of people that either were or are still employed by the Royal Bank that have been unmentioned and dozens of stories untold. Their contributions are no less important than those recalled here. Perhaps they can be relayed in a future history of the Royal Bank in Drayton Valley

DRAYTON VALLEY DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In 1960 plans were in place to set up a Technical School for the training of Oilfield Technical personnel. The President was James G. Gunnin.

In 1961 the Chamber of Commerce Board consisted of President, Conrad D. Fuhr, Vice-President – John Ewanio, Secretary – William G. Johanneson, Treasurer – James G. Gunnin. The Executive Committee – Earl Thompson, Len Bannard, Harry Zolmer, Donald G. McKenzie, H. O. Williamson, and John Bright. Publicity and Development: Alfred Armstrong, W. F. White, Howard Pickup, and Walter Krause. Membership Committee -William Vasileff, Rex Burrows, Bernard Von Tettenborn, Arthur Playford, Albert W. Miles

Their Motto was: A means for the whole community to create a voice on each and everyone's behalf to promote goodwill, industry, commerce and recreations for the benefit of the community.In 1961 – Membership fees were $10.00, in the year 2000 membership fees are rated by the amount of employees, basic rate is $60.00 plus GST.

August 2, 1962 – Mr. Ben Herold announced that on Friday August 10th he will be opening a farm machinery and supply store in Drayton Valley.

March 7, 1963 – Chamber working on getting Ambulance service in Drayton Valley. Blacktopping of highways No 39 and 57 between Drayton Valley and Thorsby to be completed in the near future. Investigating the possibility of a Fall Trade Fair in Drayton Valley.

February 6, 1964 – Membership fees – $20.00 plus $1.00 for each business employee to a maximum total rate of $100.00, individual and farm memberships $10.00. May 21, 1964 – Discussion on how to get the governments to build a Federal Building to house local unemployment office and farm credit, and a Provincial Building to house Department of Highways office, Health & Welfare office, Conservation Board, Forestry office, Courthouse, etc.

June 4, 1964 – The Drayton Valley Float has appeared in parades in Calgary, Edmonton. Red Deer, Wildwood, Edson, Barrhead and Drayton Valley. June 18, 1964 – 17 Signs had been erected between Drayton Valley and Rocky Mountain House. September 14, 1964 – Rev J Strachan was authorized to perform marriage ceremonies at the town hall. November, 1964 – Advertisements were placed in the Winnipeg Free Press and the Western Weekly Supplement to attract attention to the opportunity of establishing an Auction Market. Chamber will cooperate with the town in filling an additional 2000 bottles of Pembina crude for promotional giveaway item. Motion to increase police services to a total of five. A letter was received from Mr. Morrison, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs requesting an audience for a delegation to establish a County district in this area.

In 1965 – President – Al A. Braden, Vice President – J. A. Bright, Secretary – R. M. Findlay, Treasurer – Wayne Schmidt. Directors – W. G. Johanneson, Fred Raven, Gerry Pohling, R.T. Cowan, Karl Degen, Carl McMillan, A. Meier, W. G. Ratzlaff, R. A. Smith,Glen McLaughlin, Lorne Nelson, Harry Zolmer, Otto Nickel and Alex Zubot.

May 6, 1965 – Letters were presented to the Department of Highways recommending guard rails at the Saskatchewan bridge and on the road to Lodgepole. May 20, 1965 – Retail Merchants have presented a petition to close on Mondays, this petition will be presented to the Town. June 3, 1965 – Plans to build a nursing home are underway. Survey results show that 800 people are over the age of 60. July 15, 1965 – Incorporation was discussed, apparently the Drayton Valley boundaries conflicted with the boundaries now in effect for the Alder Flats Chamber of Commerce. September 2, 1965 – The Chamber of Commerce advertised to obtain the services of a full time optometrist.

The Drayton Valley and District Chamber of Commerce logo. Designed by Mr. Vern Harrision, depicts the four main industries of our area, OIL. FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE, and TOURISM. Mr. Harrison took a futuristic approach to this innovative design. The yellow area represents agriculture, the foreground represents tourism and recreation, the background depicts oil and forestry.

The Drayton Valley and District Chamber of Commerce office is the one door you can walk through to access business information, government programs and grant information, or community contacts. We also provide an excellent selection of tourism and travel literature. The Chamber of Commerce mission statement is: "To promote and enhance free enterprise and the economy of Drayton Valley and District."

CHAPTER FIVE
Community Groups

GIRL GUIDES 1963-1972

Submitted by Winnie Hammerlindl

I arrived in Drayton Valley in July, 1963. September came, and someone had learned that I had been a Guide (Leader) for many years. I had also been a Girl Guide, selling Guide cookies then, as Guides are still doing today. I took over as Brown Owl of the 4th D.V. Brownies. I was overjoyed to see a Scout-Guide Hall in Drayton Valley. This was a great place to hold meetings.

In the Summer of 1964, I was asked to take the Girl Guides for a weekend camp at Easyford Park. This I did. We had a few hours of sunshine on Saturday and we were able to put up our tents and start activities. Evening came and it rained and rained, only as it could rain in Drayton Valley. On Sunday morning everybody and everything was soaked, except what was stored in the camp kitchen. We put on a roaring fire and dried things out in the kitchen. Early Sunday morning, Al Braden and my husband arrived in a jeep with a trailer to take us back to town. Much to the men's surprise, the girls said: "no, we want to stay here". The men came back after supper and moved us back to Drayton Valley. I don't know who owned the tents and wondered how they dried them.

4th D.V. Brownie pack.

The following year, I became Girl Guide Captain. I learned there was a Girl Guide camp site called "Tangletrees", on Pigeon Lake, near Mulhurst. It had a large building to use in case of rain. I spent several summers there camping with the girls. We went to one camp at Tangletrees, which was called "Opportunity Camp". Girl Guides came from around a radius of twenty-five miles. My assistants were Mrs. Neil, Mrs. Bowen and Nurse Hansen.

Later, when I became a Ranger Captain (Leader) with Sister Brule as Lieutenant, we took the Rangers to Tangletrees every May long weekend, no matter what kind of weather it was. Rangers were girls, 14 to 17 years old, who continued doing much the same as their counterparts, the Guides.

R – Renders Service
A – Active in Community
N – New outlook on the promise
G – Good Citizens
E – Enterprizing
R – Rounding out the Girl Guide program

They were a marvelous happy group and always willing to help in any way.

In 1967, there were thirty Granger Companies in Alberta. 1967 was Centennial Year with great celebrations. Rangers from all over the Province joined at Bragg Creek for a Provincial Weekend Camp. I took ten girls from Drayton Valley. One thing I remember was that there was a rope bridge over the creek. The girls were given permission to walk on it to cross the creek. I was so afraid it might collapse with 80 girls on it. I sat on the shore and prayed that they would get back safely. They did. It was just two years later when the bridge did collapse, and one person drowned.

As I said, 1967 was a great year for everyone in Canada. When the Centennial Canoes came through Drayton Valley, the Rangers were asked to do the decorations for the banquet tables. The Coat of Arms of each province was cut from heavy cardboard, 2 by 3 feet. These were painted and the dec-

oration was put on the table occupied by the men of that province. The decorations were also used on several occasions after that. Money was also raised by the girls and put towards the building of the Centennial Arena that year. Another Centennial project was to make a full size quilt, which was sent to the Red Cross.

Girl Guides 1965 ready for Tangletrees Opportunity Camp.

A great event every year, was the Thanking Day (February 22), Mother and Daughter Banquet. Many girls were presented with badges, which they had been working for all year.

Two Rangers, Carol Krueger and Margaret Hammerlindl, won their Gold Cord, the highest honour in Guiding. The girls study nature, they hike and camp. They take courses in First Aid, St. Johns' Ambulance, babysitting, crafts and anything else that prepares them for life. A religion and Life Emblem was earned by many of the group.

In 1970, when Guiding had been in Canada for 60 years, I was chosen to take eight outstanding Girl Guides from the Province of Alberta, for three weeks to Quebec. We spent one week in Montreal, one week in Quebec City and one week camping in Northern Quebec. It was a great experience and I am so thankful that I had the opportunity.

The Rangers were great singers, led by Sister Brule and helped by Carol Krueger. They sang at many community events. They loved to make up songs. Here is one they made up to the tune of "I come from Alabama with a banjo on my knee".

Oh, I come from Drayton Valley
With an oil can on my knee
And I'm going to go to Guide Camp
More guides for me to see
Oh dear mother, don't you cry for me
For I come from Drayton Valley
with an oil can on my knee.

Now it rained all night the day we left
The weather it was dry
The tent so cold I froze to death
Dear mother don't you cry
Oh, dear mother don't you cry for me
I'm staying here at Guide Camp
Learning smart to be

Now I had a dream the other night
When everything was still
I thought I saw an oil truck
a coming down the hill
Oh, dear mother don't you cry for me
I'm staying here at Guide camp
Learning smart to be

A red, red nose is shining here
A sun burn on my ear
I come from Drayton Valley
With an oil can on my knee
Oh mother don't you cry
Oh, dear mother don't you cry for me
For I come from Drayton Valley
The whole world for to see.

1966, Drayton Valley Rangers

One outstanding Girl Guide I would like to mention, was Joanne Chenery. I 1969, Joanne was chosen to represent Alberta at a World Girl Guide Camp in Switzerland. In 1970 she earned her Gold Cord.

In 1972, the first session of the Alberta Girls Parliament was held. The role of the Lieutenant Governor for the first parliament was filled by Mrs. Ivor Dent, wife of the Mayor of Edmonton. Joanne Chenery, from Drayton, was the first premier. In 1970, Barbara Howe, another Drayton Girl Guide, was chosen to attend the National Camp of Girl Guides in Prince Edward Island. In 1973, Canada Cord, formerly the Gold Cord, was earned by Claire Telford, Jerry Thomas and Wanda Anderson. In 1976, the Canada Cord was earned by Cathy Lyle, Juleane Gagne, Alayne Tyler.

In 1991, the Pathfinders worked for two years to raise enough money for eight girls to go to Mexico. Their leader was Doris McGurk. They stayed at the Girl Guide Centre in Cuernovaca, along with Girl Guides from all over the world. The headquarters was called Our Cabana.

In 1972, I decided to give up leading Girl Guides. I know many competent and willing leaders carried on the work and now in 1998, Guiding is going strong in Drayton Valley. I hope someone writes an article of Guiding in D.V. from 1972 to the present time.

Members of the Drayton Valley Ranger Company are shown holding a large quilt made by the Rangers and given to the Red Cross as a "Service to others" project.

Drayton Valley Rangers Company with their Centennial project. Standing – Carol Kruger, Valerie Wildner, Margret Hammerlindl, Front Row – Louise Waddell, Barb Rasko, Bonnie McGuaughey, Bonnie Heyland, Carol Rempel.

BEEHIVE BEGINNINGS

By Norma Howatt

When our son was seven years old in 1964 and in his first month of school, the principal called my husband and I into a meeting and informed us that our son needed special help which they could not give him. He urged us to look into getting him into a school for the retarded. They recommended Winnifred Stewart School in Edmonton and after many sleepless nights, we finally agreed that we had to do it. When we did take him to the school, we had to agree NOT to see him for the first six weeks. It was during those six LONG weeks that I decided to do whatever it took to get special services here in Drayton Valley so that other handicapped children and parents did not have to suffer the same trauma.

During these same six weeks, I wrote the first of hundreds of letters to government pleading the case of parents like ourselves until finally they agreed to come to a meeting provided we had some of the other parents there. With the Health Unit's help in contacting the parents we were able to convince the government to listen.

The first concession they gave us was an Opportunity Room at Elementary School for the following fall. Little did I know then that our third son would be in this room for eight years.

In 1975 our first son was eighteen, finished the program at Winnifred Stewart School and was on a long waiting list for a vocational training program. So, again, with the Health Unit's help, we called a meeting for anyone interested in getting an association going whose goals would be to bring services here for the handicapped. At this meeting our first association was formed, with Hazel Lingard, President, Irene Siebls, Treasurer, and myself as secretary. We spent the whole summer with a government representative developing our constitution and by-laws. We were devastated in the fall when our President, Hazel Lingard, was given a vice-principalship of her school and had to resign. After great searching we found a gem of a replacement in the name of Eva Brewer. She was a real go-getter, all of five feet tall, but would tackle anything or anyone.

A government representative came to every meeting we had for the next two years working with us in surveying and establishing our needs and then helping us prepare a fifty page grant proposal for the vocational training centre we wanted and the same for the residence as well. The legwork took us to meetings in Hinton, Edson, Barrhead, Edmonton and on tours of facilities in Lloydminster, Wetaskiwin, Sherwood Park, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, etc.

I remember very clearly the night before the deadline for submitting our two proposals. There

were six of us working at our dining room table and it was getting on to 3:30 am. We were just doing the final proof-reading of these long proposals when someone noticed we had to come up with a name for the vocational centre. Everyone groaned as we all had to go to work the next morning. The government representative said we must come up with a name that portrays not handicap but busyness. Well, Ron & I were just getting into the bee business and nothing is as busy as bees so I blurted out "Beehive" and I guess everyone wanted to end this very long night so everyone agreed. The government representative left at 4:00 am with two completed proposals to present that afternoon to the government.

Well, it turned out we had completed the easy part because when the two proposals were passed by government, we found we had to match their grant of $52,000 for the Beehive. We would have given up at that point, I think, if it had not been for Eva Brewer. She was like the little train in the book "I think I can". We organized a Spell-a-thon for all the schools in the area and collected an unbelievable $17,000. This spurred us on as we realized the whole community was behind us. Several of us attended town, M.D. and service club meetings presenting our case and soliciting funds. Everyone was very responsive to our needs. Three of us ladies under Eva Brewer's supervision built a portable booth in Irene Siebls' back yard and then cajoled trucking outfits to haul it to rodeos, ball games, etc., for us where we catered and did a rip-roaring business.

One of our major sources of income then and to this day is the Annual Charity Auction. Sekura Auction Mart has conducted this auction for us each year for twenty years, donating their facilities, time and talents and bringing in around $10,000 yearly. This has been a godsend for our fund-raising efforts.

During all this fund-raising we ran what we called a trial run for the future Beehive at the Lutheran Church during the summer of 1976. We hired three students under a STEP GRANT AND HAD TEN CLIENTS IN THIS PROGRAM. Its success made us more determined to go ahead but realized we as parents, needed the help of the community to push these projects to fruition. So our President, Eva Brewer, was commissioned to set up and sit on a residential board and the Secretary, me, to do the same on a workshop board. This took a lot of the pressure off us, although we now still had to attend board meetings as well as association meetings locally and regionally.

With these boards in place, we started the vocational program in a basement January 17, 1977 and about March, 1977 the old National Supply Building became the Beehive (where the One-Spot Bowling Alley is now). In June, 1978, the residence, Valleyview, officially opened.

In 1979 we had a long waiting list for residencial placement so we undertook to build or buy another residence. Before plans for Green Acres were finalized, President Eva Brewer moved away and Joyce Dusterhoft took over. She was instrumental in getting Green Acres off the ground. The deal for purchasing Green Acres was all but signed when CMHC backed off. It had finally dawned on them that we were purchasing an acreage and they were not going to fund it. We appealed to Shirley Cripps, then our MLA. She went to bat for us and the night before the deal was to be cancelled, she phoned me to pick up the government's cheque at her place at Westerose. She had convinced the government to come up with the extra $20,000 that CMHC would not mortgage. My hat was off to Shirley for that move. Green acres opened shortly after that in early 1981.

Our first Beehive Board chairman was Bud Byram, followed by Elmer Madsen, Marty Prentice, Garry Lorenz and current chairperson Joan Wetaski. Our first Residential Board chairperson was Brian Henkel, followed by Hy Dahl. After about one year, it was decided to combine these boards. We have had many wonderful community members serve on our boards over the years, far too numerous to mention. I will only mention two who served us from the very beginning and for a very long time after. They were Jack McLean and Eleanor Pickup, without people like them we would not be operating today.

Our first Beehive Manager was Julian Campbell, followed by two ladies, Carole Graham and Carol Brazok. We had several interim managers and then we changed the position to Executive Director and hired Ron Szala, followed by Ron Zink, Andy Dornan and lastly Bruce Nichols. Bruce has served us very well over the past ten years, bringing with him stability in programming, staffing and getting our clients out into community based programs, etc.

CUBS, SCOUTS AND VENTURERS 1980-1989

Submitted by Miriam Roberts

This is an attempt to give an account of some of the highlights of the scouting movement in Drayton Valley during a very active period. I apologize for not naming all the boys because of the numbers involved. The highest number of Cubs enrolled were 36 in 1983 and the lowest number was 16 in October 1988, 1 Scout was enrolled in 1980, 18 Scouts in 1983, and in 1984, the only year they had a Venturer Company there were 4.

In the early 1980's Dwight Denton was Cub master, Cub leaders were Terry Lauder, Ed Roberts, Len Gusek, Dwayne Swendseid, Brian Rains, Ray Parker, Ken Parker, Ted Hayden Glen English, Audrey Kyfiuk, Rita Skinner, Walter Genovy, Warren Wilson, Denis Elliott and Frederick Webb.

In the late 1980's Harold Lathe, Ray Oscar, Fred Webb, Don Brosius, Darlene Vowk, Armand Labonte, Bill MacFarlane, Debbie Litke, and Don Nelson were leaders.

Every year the Cubs were involved in "Kub Kar" rallies. They had Cub banquets and would up their year of regular activities by camping at the Pembina River Provincial Park. They also went in the Lord Baden Powell parades, Remembrance Day Parades, and rodeo parades. They met every Tuesday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., from September to June, for their regular activities at the Scout Hall.

Front Row – Jason Mitchell, Brent Ono Frychuk, Kenneth Roberts, Shane Kmyta, Quenn Cjoretosky. Middle Row – Sean Roberts, Rick Day, Bob Evertard. On Top of Rock – Danny Lord, Brent Newfeld, Mike Stein on a hike in Jasper, April 1984

Many of the Cubs went on to be invested as Scouts. The Scouts were led by Thomas Stafford, Delia Duperron, Dave Robb, Chris Shanahan, Wayne Pick, Paul Spurrell, Ed Roberts, Dave Pyrch, Allan Krebbs, and Bill Hillis.

The Cubs and Scouts had bottle drives to raise money for their packs and troops and to help with paying for the Scout Hall expenses.

The Scouts took part in many outdoor activities, such as camping, winter survival camps, hiking and rafting in Jasper. Camp Woods on Sylvan Lake was a place they visited at least 3 times. They also camped at Easyford and Pembina River Provincial Park, where, on one occasion when it was very hot, the boys had water fights to cool off. On one camping trip when they went to Saskatchewan, Wayne Pick, their leader, had warned the Scouts before they left, if they caused any problems their parents would be called to come and take them home. I received a telephone call from Wayne, at first the dreaded thought of having to pick up my son in Estevan flashed through my mind. He was suffering from "pinkeye." I was relieved I didn't have to drive to Saskatchewan to pick him up.

Wayne Pick, Paul Spurrell, and Ed Roberts led the Scouts when they went to Yellowhead District Jamboree at Grand Cache from June 10-12, 1983. The Scouts who attended were Rick Day, Bob Ewert, Danny Lord, Jason Mitchell, Brent Neufeld, Chris Ollsen, Brad Pyrch, Sean Roberts, and Michael Stein. They camped in 3 tents, but while they were sleeping, there was a late spring snowfall, collapsing two of the tents. All the Scouts and their leaders ended up in one tent. The troops competed in backwoods cooking, first aid, orienteering, campfire songs, and campfire skits. They won 2 first place awards in the competitions.

October 1983 – on the occasion of being invested from Cubs to Scouts. Left, Ed Roberts, Ted Hayden, Front, Leader Paul Spurrell, Kenneth Roberts, Jason Mitchell, Rick Day, ??, Wayne Pick, Cub ??, Scout Sean Roberts, Cub ??, Brent Newfeld, Shane Kmyta

In the years leading to July 1985 the Scouts were involved in a very busy period of fundraising and preparation for the Canadian Jamboree in Guelph, Ontario. One of the many fundraisers was selling spices and Christmas cakes in the fall of

1984. Meanwhile, Paul Spurrell started up a Venturer company, a scouting group for youth 12-14 years, in the fall of 1984. One of the highlights of their activities was attending a winter camp in Athabasca. The Venturers took part in a weekend, outdoor activity once a month. Leading up to the Canadian Jamboree the Scouts and Venturers went to preparatory camps at Wabamun and Blueberry.

Sandra Day led Venturers Rick Day, Brent Neufeld, Sean Roberts, Michael Stein, and Andrew Box, from Grande Cache. Scouts Jason Mitchell and Kenneth Roberts were also along when they went to the Canadian Jamboree. When they first arrived in Ontario they were billeted by the Port Burwell Scout troop. Some of the attractions they visited were Niagara Falls, Ontario's Science Center, Canada's Wonderland, and the CN Tower in Toronto, during their event of a lifetime in Guelph from July 3-12, 1985.

The Scouts moved on to the 2nd D.V. Scout troop at the Church of Latter Day Saints under the leadership of Brian Isert. At this time a goal of the Scouts was to work towards getting their Chief Scout Awards. To achieve this the Scouts had to earn badges in Bronze, Silver and Gold levels in at least 5 different categories of activities. Each level required many projects to achieve, which they did at Scout meetings, individually or at troop camps. The categories they earned their badges in were campcraft, requiring many outdoor summer and winter camping trips; citizen, which they earned at weekly Scout meeting; Jamborees, volunteered as individuals at the hospital for at least 50 hours, many doing more and also worked on community improvements. First Aide was learned mostly at meetings by demonstration, participation, and watching films. Personal fitness required individual activity, such as keeping a personal log of activity and its effect on the heart rate, before and after. Exploring badges were earned on overnight camp and hiking trips, when orienteering and camp cooking were learned. To earn their silver level they went on a 25 km overnight hike, ply 2 overnight camping trips when they had to cycle at least 50 km to the site. This does not account for everything they did, only examples of their activities.

Some of the badges they earned individually were collector, engineering, family care, handcraft, modeler, naturalist, pet care, sportsman, teams sportsman and winter sportsman.

In June 1987 Kenneth Roberts was presented with the Chief Scout Award by Lieutenant Governor Helen Hunley. In June 1988, Brian Andersen, John Jones and Kevin Thomas earned their Chief Scout Awards. Brent Onofychuk, who had started in the Scouting movement in Drayton Valley also received his Chief Scout Award in June 1988. Michael Day who had also started in the Drayton Scouting movement attended the Canadian Jamboree in Prince Edward Island in 1989.

Thanks to the dedication of the leaders of the Scouting movement, they not only encouraged the youth to reach their goals in Scouts, but also helped them to aspire to greater achievements in their adult lives.

At Canadian Jamboree in Guelph Ontario, July 1985. Back Row – Sandra Day, Brent Newfeld, Rick Day, Andrew Box, Michael Stein. Front Row – Kenneth Roberts, Jason Mitchell, Sean Roberts

DANCE BANDS OF DRAYTON VALLEY AND DISTRICT

Many dance bands started up in Drayton Valley in the fifties, sixties, and seventies. Some of these musicians are still playing today and some are playing with the same fellow musicians. A group of four or five musicians got together in someone's basement or garage for a jam session and it grew so that they shared that music with a dancehall full of people. Sometimes they arranged these 'gigs' themselves, booking the hall on a commission basis. They would book the hall, put up posters, and drive through town on the evening of the dance to announce through a megaphone mounted on top of a car, for everyone to come out to the dance. If it was a cold night they might not get much of a turnout. It might only pay for the rent of the hall and fifty cents for each of the musicians.

Later, the routine was for the band to be booked for a price that might have netted the musicians $5. each for a night's work that may have lasted until

two or three in the morning – except for Saturday nights, of course, when the band was required to shut down at midnight, the next day being Sunday and you were not allowed to play on Sunday. They would then start earlier on Saturday nights for a longer night of dancing.

Rocky Rapids dance hall often was named 'Rocky Square Gardens' because of the fights that broke out there. Most often the boxers, or wrestlers, would be steered outside to fight out in the mud or snow. Sometimes, though, the fight would start a chain reaction and the whole hall would erupt into a 'knock-down-drag-out.' Once, a woman was observed leaping up onto a bench and hitting a passing man over the head with her high-heeled shoe. The mud would be packed into the hall in big clods on hobnailed rig boots. Sometimes, after the riot was quelled, the dance carried on as usual. The band often played a wild polka while the antagonists raged on but sometimes the band had to grab their instruments and run to safety or risk losing their equipment to the destruction going on inside the hall, That would mark the end of the dance for that evening.

The band had an ideal vantage point up on the stage to observe everything that went on in the hall: the little intrigues, the romances, the lovers triangles, the 'falling-outs' and the 'falling-in' loves – when someone slipped out one door and someone else slipped out of another for a rendezvous outside. Sometimes the action on the dance floor was so funny or so distracting that they had difficulty concentrating on their music and dissolved into laughter in the middle of a number. Sometimes, people wondered how they had the nerve to charge for their services when they seemed to be having so much fun up there.

In most of the early country dance halls there was no electricity and no indoor plumbing. A fiddle, a guitar, an accordion and perhaps a banjo played accoustic music without the use of amplification. The singer, without aid of a microphone, would have to belt out a song at the top of his lungs to be heard. Later, drums, amplifiers, electric guitars, basses, electric keyboards and microphones carried the music into bigger halls. The bars and lounges hired the musicians and many thought they'd try the 'bar circuit'' on the road.'

Some of the first bands and music groups in the area were: The Lorenz family, The Eskimos, The Riviera Caravan, The Oil Tones, Down Home Country, The Village Lads, The Country Way, Pet Rock, leckree, Property Of and Alberta Country,

Some of the musicians who continued to play over the years were: Roserre Parrenteau, Chester Woiden, Gordon Oberg, The Miller Brothers and Edwin Erickson on accordion. Dave Robinson, Jack Platz, Eugene Poholka, and Jerry Goertzen on the fiddle.

On guitar or bass, and vocals, we had: Derril and Bill Fiveland, Duane Kehl, Jack Loree, Lorne Foster, Date Platz, Autry Coombs, Ron Brown, Glen English, Willard Robinson, Richard Russel. Reg and Lil Ross, Peter Hayp, on, Willard Robinson, Rod and Doug Shipton, Dick and Carmen Baker, Ben Tobiasson, Marilyn Seebry, Carmen and Laverne Moerke, Jack Eamor, Ray and Don Oscar, Ken Erickson, Howard McKay, Stan Posein, Dean McKay, Ron Brown, Darren and Michelle Bartlett and Bob Anderson, Mel Rarrenteau, Rick Flikkema, Glen Ellery and Terry Flemming.

On keyboard of notable fame we had: Jim Mussel, Ervin Rendflesh, Lois Robinson, Iris Tuftin, Jack Loree and Diane Ellery. And on drums there were: Ray, Tim and Jeff Mussel (who also played guitar and did vocals), Al Groulx, Rick Williams, Maurice Parrenteau, Eric Erickson, Vern Bartlett, Bob Krause, Henry Felowich, Colin Donovan, Bernie Parrenteau and Rick Woytovich.

A Thirty Year Band Reunion sponsored by Reg and Lil Ross was held April 21, 1990 inviting back all the band musicians who could make it to the jamboree.

This may sound like Hank Snow's or George Fox's 'I've Been Everywhere' song but here is a list of some of the halls where these musicians played: "There was Alberta Beach, Alder Flats, Banff, Battle Lake, Barrhead, Blueberry, Breton, Cherhill, Condor, Cynthia, Darwell, Duffield, Edson, Easyford, Estevan, Edmonton, Entwistle, Evansburg, Fallen, Genessee, Hansen's Corner, Feghvale, Fenton, Kananaskis, Keephills, Leduc, Lakedell, Lindale, Last West, Lodgepole, Meadowview, Moon Lake, Mosside, Naples (that's in Alberta), Onoway, Parkcourt, Pinegrove, Ramona Hall, Rexboro, Rimbey, Rocky Rapids, Rocky Mountain House, Sangudo, Strawberry, Stony Plain, Summerdale, Swan Hills, Telfordville, Thorsby, Toefteld, Warburg, Wetaskawin, Whitby, Wildwood, Winfield, and four halls in Drayton Valley!" Whew!

And 'The Beat Goes On' as Sonny and Cher would sing. There will be another long list of Bands and Musicians for the next history book.

DRAYTON VALLEY ADULT LITERACY SOCIETY

By Carol Ulmer

From the land of "boom or bust" we too have our story to tell. Drayton Valley, the "Oil Capital of Canada" owes its existence (past and present) to the

natural resources around - the rich Pembina Oilfield, the wealth of forested foothills, somewhat temperate climate conditions. It was possible for folks to make "big money, fast"! The 1980's however, saw a downturn in the economy and a re-evaluation of the status quo. Powerhouse Further Education Council, looking to expand its presence in the community, followed guidelines set out by the Alberta Literacy Project in May 1985. Their decision came after a 1981 survey by the Pembina Educational Consortium reflected that 15% of the area population had grade 9 or less.

Conditions for the structure of this literacy project were that it be run by a paid coordinator with provision for an advisory committee to be struck. The coordinator would recruit and assess students, recruit and train volunteer tutors, match individual students with appropriate tutors, provide ongoing support and raise public awareness of the program. Volunteers would provide the tutoring to adult students to work to their own goals. The program would be confidential with continuous entry and exit. Core funding was to come from the Dept. of Advanced Education through the hosting authority of Powerhouse Further Education Council. The community was expected to provide ongoing support. The initial grant in 1985 was $4000.

The first willing coordinator to fill the job was Anne Griffiths from May to Dec. of 1985, when she returned home to Australia. Denise Robinson stepped in until June, 1986. Ruby Hurley was next at the helm until Jan. 1987. Joyce Byram followed (Feb. '87 - Nov. '88). Dec. 1, 1988, I was to become coordinator (and still am at the time of this writing – January, 2000). The office was shared with the Powerhouse coordinator in the Pembina Education Consortium, except for Dec. '92 - May 1996 when a basement room was claimed entirely by literacy. It soon proved too small and inaccessible. Roomier space was found in the Provincial Building. Literacy was back in the real world and sunshine!

It would take a while for an advisory committee to come together. March 26, 1992, Mary Tourneur, Nesan Naidoo, Alvina Sperling and Val Tucker were that committee. In the fall, Olga Brown joined. On Nov. 26, 1992, the project became a society. The advisory committee was now the official board. On Nov. 5, 1993, the Drayton Valley Adult Literacy Society gained status as a registered non-profit charity.

The project was originally structured to meet the needs of adult students who: are functionally illiterate (unable to read/write well enough to cope), want to upgrade or to learn English as a second language.

This is still the basis of the program. We have, however, expanded to promote literacy at every opportunity as noted in the mission state "to promote, develop and enhance literacy skills". Several family initiatives have run successfully. In 1994, we began the delivery of baby books (Tiny Tot Tales) through the health unit's immunization clinics. In 1999, this was expanded to a 3-part program. In addition to the first package given at the 4 month clinic, there is another given at 12 months, and a pamphlet at 18 months, (Tales for Toddlers). All area infants and toddlers in Drayton Valley, Breton and Winfield receive these books and information packets on early reading with immunization.

We have facilitated classes centering on children's books (Literacy in Families Everyday/ Homespun) and just last fall offered sessions on rhymes, lullabies and story-telling (Once-Upon-A-Rhyme Time). Monthly sessions are offered to students with their tutors with various topics focussing on writing.

Community awareness has been addressed with guest speakers and various contests-photo, essay, poster, writing a message for the answering machine. The 'Ride for Literacy' of the past two years has raised funds and reached new participants. It will be repeated Sept. 9 of this year. We look forward to another 'fun time'! Continued associations with various agencies – Cardium Employment, Health Unit, Brighter Futures, etc. help to keep literacy in the forefront. We are making inroads into the community by offering classes in family literacy, citizenship, writing or meeting requests made by students to achieve their literacy goals.

The community, in turn, has been very supportive in terms of funding initiatives and volunteer commitments. We have provided (and continue to do so), an alternative opportunity to students who chose to improve their literacy skills, yet through circumstances were unable to access regular classes. Some have gone on to fulfill GED (General Equivalency Diploma), others to improve skills sufficiently to further their educational or training pursuits. Many have taken English as a Second Language to become fully contributing members of our community. Some have fulfilled the Canadian citizenship requirements. Volunteers have been most generous and willing in time and energy given to new learners. Orientation and inservice training are offered them. Their many hours, though unpaid monetarily, have been rewarded in friendships and a great satisfaction in passing on new skills. Many thanks to all who understand the meaning of the word "community".

In the 15 years since start up, approximately 200 students and tutors each have come through the pro-

gram, to contribute their time and talents to the growth of the community. We have an active, dedicated nine member board. Wendy McKenzie, May Barker, Vera Janjic-Watrich, Tom Sperling, Val Tucker, Wayne Current, Mardi Dancey, Lois Coward and Cindy Waronek help give direction to program development. The returns of volunteer time far outweigh the cost of government funding (1999 grant = $17,500). This success speaks for itself. The development of our citizens is by far the best resource!

DRAYTON VALLEY AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Written by Olga Brown

The Drayton Valley area is rich in natural resources. The oil industry in the 50's made world wide news. The wood industry in the 80's added to Drayton Valley's wealth. The agricultural industry remains the basic industry for rural living. Many of the local rural residents supplemented their income in these other industries.

Previous to the formation of the present Agricultural Society, small bench shows had been held. The Women's Institute also held flower shows. Then it became apparent that an Agricultural Society would best serve the needs of a growing community. Meetings were held. A membership drive found interested individuals. Applications were made and so the idea progressed.

The Drayton Valley and District Agricultural Society was granted a Certificate of Organization under the Agricultural Societies Act on January 24, 1974. There were 97 members who paid $1.00 each to belong.

Fifty had listed their occupation as farmer or rancher. The rest ranged from oilfield technician, bank manager, policeman, store proprietor, steam services, caretaker, homemaker, teacher, retired librarian, oilfield supervisor, accountant, municipal administrator, professional engineer, MLA, mechanic, highway maintenance, aircraft maintenance, and clerk. Their addresses came from Duffield, Tomahawk, Entwistle Evansburg, Rocky Rapids and Drayton Valley. It is obvious from this list that many saw the need for an umbrella organization to oversee the agricultural activities.

Original objectives were to encourage improvement in agriculture, horticulture, homemaking and the quality of life in the agricultural community. Meetings, short courses, exhibitionS, development of leadership, encouragement of 4-H, Farmers' Market, and the sponsorship of cultural events rounded out the objectives list. In reviewing the work of the agricultural society, it is evident that these objectives are still all in practice in the local organization.

First president was Stan Franklin from Duffield, Jack McLean was vice-president, Rene Belva was 2nd vice-president, Otto Hansen as secretary and Peggy Tyler was treasurer. Other presidents were Jack McLean in 1976, Ken Mackenzie in 1978, Bob Domke in 1983, Cecil Andersen in 1989, Robert Kitching in 1993, Peter Greschuk in 1994 and Neil Norton in 1996.

Bench shows have been the backbone of the organization since 1974. Reasons why people exhibit are many. They are proud of the exemplary work they do. Exhibitors go to view new ideas and products. They want to improve their own work via comments and comparing their own work with other displays. And it is a great place to meet friends and socialize.

The first exhibit held in 1974 included indoor exhibits of horticulture, arts and crafts, handicrafts, needlework and culinary arts and was organized by Mary Burrows. There were 450 entries in 227 classes. Prizes included ribbons and monetary prizes of $2.00, $1.00 and $.50 It was held in a tent on the site of the present rodeo grounds. And it was very wet. The town had sponsored the RCMP Musical Ride, so the Fair was held the same weekend. Also exhibited were horses, cattle and sheep.

In 1978 the Livestock exhibits were discontinued until better facilities were available.

In 1976 a School Section was added to the competitions with handwriting classes in grades I to 6, Creative Writing in Prose and Poetry, Social Studies and Science projects were added in 1977. Art work was added in 1979. The classes remain basically the same, but now (1997) entries average over 600.

1979-83 saw the addition of rabbits and poultry. While these animals added much interest and atmosphere to the displays, it became evident that the interest for this activity was not there and these were discontinued. Goats were part of the Fair from 1986 to 1990.

In 1992 prize money for the bench Show was raised to $6.00 for first place, $4.00 for second and $2.00 for third. The Fair has grown significantly. In 1997, there were over 1100 exhibits in the Bench Show. Prize money was over $4,500.00

It is impossible to name all the people who have helped to make the Bench Show so successful, but perhaps the Agricultural Society should recognize a few of the major Aggregate winners.

Since 1981, the following have earned the Grand Aggregate trophies – Ruth Nixon, Janet Ellis, Winnie Hammerlindl, Alma Reich, Elizabeth

Kugyelka, Mary Nelson, Nicole Kalischuk, and Evelyn Lukaniuk.

Since 1981, family Aggregate trophy-winners are the Nixon family, O'Hearn family, Tinney family, Vanderwell family, Krawchuk family, Ellis family, Kugyelka family, Bergley family, Kalischuk family .the-Broks family and the Schwindt family.

Bench shows would not be the success they are without the donations of trophies by various individuals and businesses. For many years trophies were given to top prizewinners. Now the practice is to give out gift certificates donated by many businesses. This has proven popular for both the donor and the recipient.The winner receives merchandise that can be used and the business has the winner channeled back to the business.

The Bench show continues to be the focal point. Its displays are always rated as "Very Good" to "Excellent" by judges. In 1980, a Rural and Urban Beautification Competition was added to recognize those who made an extra effort to beautify and have exemplary town yards, acreages, farmsteads, and gardens. 1980, also saw the prize money for the Bench Show upped to $3.00, $2.00 and $1.00. It was in 1980 when the first Awards Night and Pot Luck Supper was begun to recognize those who had exhibited and won trophies.

To add a new dimension to the Fair and introduce the younger parents of the community

to the Fair, the first Baby Show was held in 1981 with 25 babies present. This proved so popular that in 1983 there were 62 babies present. Everyone knows that the best products in Drayton Valley are the babies. Each baby had its picture taken, received a bag of gifts donated by various merchants and was entered in various draws. And one baby's name was drawn for the baby cup. In 1987 more interest to this show was in the form of Baby Races and Diaper Changing by a male relative. And the diapers were the good old- fashioned cloth diapers which had to be folded and pinned on properly. Often the grandfathers take part in this event. By 1997, the number of babies entered averaged about 25.

The Agricultural Society was pleased to inaugurate the first regular Farmers Market in 1975. It was organized by Spence Goddard who was then the District Agriculturist. His wife, Bobbie, and Colleen Schwartz were managers for several years. Winnie Hammerlindl and Peggy Tyler took over after them. Other managers were Eileen Guze and Theresa Comeau, Sylvia Blackburn, Lynn Merchel, Ruth Cooper, Dorothy Domke and Arlene Hedlund. The market moved from the Elks Hall to the old curling rink then to other empty buildings in town until it settled into the Derrick Mall, where it is set up every Wednesday from March to December.

Alberta Agriculture has a collection of over 700 slides taken of rural farming activities in the 1980's. The purpose of this project was to have available for interested parties a pictorial description of the area, that did not focus on the oil or wood industry.

The Pioneer award was begun in 1989. It was designed to recognize the individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the development and maintenance of rural communities. These families were actively involved in farming and their volunteer efforts enhanced the quality of rural life. Often their activities went on without much encouragement and recognition. So the Agricultural Society was proud to recognize the following :

Recipients:

1989
Ed Goddard
Mrs. Flesher
Augusta Joesting
Gaston Jouan
Lester Cropley

1990
Tom Martin
John MacKenzie
Hugh Kapteyn

1991
Ernie Lindskoog
Otto Hansen

1992
William Dusterhoft
Bud Sullivan

1993
Robert and Grace Landers

1994
Albert and Edith Grinde

1995
Bohdan Urchyshyn

1996
Otto and Eileen Guze

1997
Gordon and Irene Gillespie
Mary Holmgren
Jim Robb
Truman Fry

2000
Don and Isabel Martin
Harry and Muriel Campbell
Frank Swap
Les and Louise Tucker
2001
Lylle and Rachel Beckett
Bill and Irene Robinson
Dave and Eva Cameron

The Agricultural Society has always supported the 4-H movement. By 1983 the Society was recognizing the displays of 4-H work with awards and money. At first the displays were held in conjunction with the Fair in August.. In 1992, the displays became part of the Cattle Show during Rodeo weekend in June. The Agricultural Society continues to support these groups with payment of facility rentals and a trophy for Achievement Days. In 1996, a serger was donated to the 4-H Button Poppers, a sewing club. The Agricultural Society has been pleased to sponsor eligible delegates for REDA Leadership camps for young people.

With the erection of the Omniplex Facility the Agricultural Society now had facilities to host Cattle Shows. And so a committee was organized to plan for the first cattle show. It was held in 1990 in conjunction with the Rodeo. The first show featured heifer, cow-calf, yearling heifer, and steer competitions. $3,000 was donated anonymously to be given to the best steer of the show. This was the catalyst needed to make the show a huge success. Over 50 animals were exhibited that year. Other classes have been added since then. This show is very popular-first, because the facilities are so good for preparing the animals for the displays and also because the exhibitors like the one-day format. Exhibitors have come from north of Valleyview, south of Calgary, Montana and Saskatchewan. In 1995 over 200 animals were exhibited. In 1996 over $7,500.00 in prize money was given out. The committee says it also owes the success of the show to the donors and support of local businesses and cattle related businesses.

The first publication of the Agricultural Directory was in 1988. It was published with the cooperation of Alberta Agriculture. It contained a comprehensive list of goods and services in the Drayton Valley area. It was updated and is now part of the Chamber of Commerce Directory

In 1992 the Agricultural Society made available a $500.00 scholarship to graduates of the local high school or any 5 year resident of the Drayton Valley area, who was proceeding with their education in any post-secondary institution in Western Canada, in any Agriculture or Home Economics field. To date the following have been recipients:

1993 – Paula Oberg
1994 – Tanya Kercher
1995 – Garrett Broadbent
1996 – Tammy Frey
1997 – Margo Matheson
2000 – Kelli-Lynn Claypool
Tammy Frey

The Agricultural Society has been instrumental in accessing substantial funds and donations for the building of the Omniplex.

This history would not be complete without the mention of some of the many people who have made this organization so successful. The following are the names of some of the hard- working members who have donated their time, energy and knowledge for more than 10 years to the leadership and convenership of this organization. As of 1998, years involved are as follows:

Winnie Hammerlindl – 24 years
Florence Romano – 24 years
Olga Brown – 23 years
Ken Mackenzie – 20 years
Ann Krawchuck – 18 years
Valera Martin – 18 years
Peggy Tyler – 16 years
Bob Domke – 15 years
Susan Schwindt – 14 years
Barbara Rogers – 12 years
Maryann Law – 10 years
Jennie Greschuk – 11 years

This list is not complete. For while one name in a family is on the list, the spouse, no doubt supported and encouraged. There are many more who were also instrumental in making the Agricultural Society successful. Our sincere thanks!

And of special interest in 1997 – The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies has placed the name of Winnie Hammerlindl on their Alberta Honor Roll. She was the only one so honored in for her work in Agricultural Societies. In Drayton Valley, she helped to organize the first Bench Show in 1974. She has remained active in many capacities in this organization. She has exhibited in every fair since 1974, has won the Senior Aggregate Trophy 9 times and the Grand Aggregate twice. Winnie was the manager of Farmers' Market in 1977. Even now she has a table at the Farmers' Market full of prize-winning pickles, jams, jellies fruits and plants. She is also very active in many other facets of the community work. The Agricultural Society is very proud of this hard-working and humble lady.

This Society is pleased to be a co-sponsor of the Women's Conference. It began in 1995, and has continued since. Many speakers deal with topics of interest to women.

In 1998, the Alberta Horticultural Show was in Drayton Valley and we were delighted to host this provincial show in conjunction with the local Fair.

And what does the future hold for this society? With such a dedicated group of members, this society will continue to serve where needed in this community.

DRAYTON VALLEY CHORALAIRES

Submitted by Mary Poloway

The Choralaires were organized in 1965 under the direction of Dick Humphries, a local teacher. The choir started with 9 ladies and grew to 18 members. They performed at different functions in the community.

The Choralaires won the A.C.T. Talent Show in Drayton Valley which gave them the opportunity to audition on the CFRN TV Talent Night. They won the audition and came second in the finals. The adjudicators were very impressed with the Choralaires and encouraged the group to enter music festivals.

Choralaires. Pat Jenkins, Dick Humphreys, Barbara MacLean, Alice Kaarsmaker, Lou Martin, (?), Frankie Smith, Carol Hoyland, Eileen Guze, Lila Sleno, Nancy Jacobs, Mary Poloway

Unfortunately, Dick Humphries moved away and the group could not find anyone to fill his shoes. The group ultimately disbanded. Many of the ladies joined the D.V. Entertainers, who entertained in the community for many years.

Choralaires entertaining at the Town 25th Anniversary. L-R, Betty McGee, Eunice Lyle, Pat Jenkins, Doreen Wheat, Nancy Jacobs, Betty Donovan, Gail McCracken, Mary Poloway

DRAYTON VALLEY FARMERS MARKET

By Winnie Hammerlindl

The Agriculture Society was pleased to inaugurate the first regular Market in 1975. Spense Goddard, the District Agriculturist organized the Farmers Market. At the same time, he organized the Agriculture Society. The DV Agriculture Society sponsored the Market. A grant of $3000 was given to the Market for outdoor booths. Because of the rains of Drayton Valley, the grant was never used, but was invested in G.I.C's and has grown into a good investment.

The first managers of the market were Bobbie Goddard and Colleen Schwartz. There have been many other managers: Peggy Tyler, Winnie Hammerlindl, Eileen Guze, Theresa Comeau, Lynn Marchell, Ruth Cooper, Dorothy Domke, Sylvia Blackburn and Lynn Merschel to name a few. The present manger is Arlene Hedlund. The charter vendors of the society were Hutterite Colony of Warburg, Bea Cropley, Winnie Hammerlindl and Joe Roos. The number of vendors has grown from eight to fifty a week.

The market has been set up in many places, Elks Hall, Dodson Plaza, the Old Skating Rink, and is now being held every Wednesday at the Derrick Mall. It runs from March to December.

DRAYTON VALLEY HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION AUXILIARY

For 38 years, the Drayton Valley Auxiliary has provided its support to health care in the Drayton Valley area. It began January 18, 1959 with 11 members. Today, the Auxiliary has 59 members, and throughout its history, this organization has added much to the care and treatment of those using the local health centre.

In 1959, money was raised with a canteen in the hospital, the selling of knitted baby outfits, birth certificates, raffles and baked goods. They also did mending for the hospital.

In 1961, the Auxiliary added a Florence Nightingale Tea to their fund raising and started making tray favors to "brighten up" special occasions for clients of the hospital. With their dedicated efforts they were able to buy dishes, an oxygen tent and toys for the children's ward, a stainless steel table for emergency and baby bassinets.

Rummage sales were started in 1964 and in November, 1979, the first Thrift Shop was opened. A new hospital was built in June, 1984, with an extended care unit. The Auxiliary bought a handibus for the use of those patients. A gift shop was

Construction of the first Hospital in Drayton in 1958

opened in the hospital in 1987 and the Thrift shop moved into a larger building.

In 1989, the Auxiliary became an association as it entered the membership of Canadian Health Care Auxiliaries Association. The next year, a chapel in the health care complex was built and furnished by the Auxiliary.

By 1994, the Auxiliary became the Drayton Valley Health Care Auxiliary Association. In the past ten years, $413,832 has been raised for the purchase of equipment for the Drayton Valley Health Care Complex. These monies were used to purchase T.V.'s, a Fetal Heart Monitor and an ultrasound machine. A Palliative Care Unit was also furnished by the Auxiliary. Also in 1994, the Auxiliary took ownership of a larger facility for an expanded Thrift Shop, as to better serve the community.

L-R, Reverend Keith Denman, Thomas, Margarite and Rachel

This dedicated group of ladies have served over 10,500 volunteer hours last year and have worked hundreds of thousands of hours over its 38 year history, with plans to continue to do so as long as there is a need for their services in the Drayton Valley area.

The Drayton Valley Health Care Auxiliary is proud of its members' accomplishments, especially their contribution to the health care of the clients of the Drayton Valley Health Complex.

DRAYTON VALLEY RINGETTE ASSOCIATION

By Lorraine Polei

The sport of Ringette first debuted in Drayton Valley on March 29th, 1990.

Upon moving here in January, 1990, I had two daughters who played Ringette but Drayton Valley had never heard of the sport. They did not want to play girls' hockey, so I decided I would try to get enough interest to start a Ringette league in Drayton Valley, not sure if it would get off the ground. The girls' coaches from Edson Ringette thought Drayton Valley was an ideal location to have another team for Zone 5 and they were a tremendous help in my efforts.

My first step was to call Ringette Alberta to send out an information package for new teams and the Alberta Sports Council about funding. I organized a Ringette clinic held March 29th, 1990, run by Ringette Alberta with an exhibition game between Edson and Spruce Grove. We had approximately 20 turn out that night, ranging in age from 3-17 plus parents. It looked promising and I was determined to proceed.

Paul Neilsen (Recreation Director) and Charlene Jenkins (Ice Co-ordinator) of the Town of Drayton Valley were instrumental in those early months of organization as was the arena staff. Here was yet another group wanting the all too scarce ice time slots, plus Ringette needed a few different markings on the ice surface.

Claude Arsenault, also new to Drayton Valley, was the first head coach for the budding new sport. She had considerable experience playing Ringette and welcomed the challenge of establishing a Ringette team in Drayton Valley.

We had two Junior coaches in Troy McGinn (who stayed on for 4 years) and Robin Smashnuk. They played hockey but were willing to volunteer their time to help with "something new" to the town.

Our first sponsor was DIAL Oilfield Services and they have stood behind Ringette since our struggling initial year and still sponsor the Petite team today.

The idea behind Ringette is social interaction, meet new people, have fun, team play, strategy, and develop skating skills. My visions were of seeing a team in league play at a competitive level.

September 24, 1990, saw Drayton Valley Ringette hit the ice with 9 players (the minimum for a team). Before leaving that night we had 4 more girls and by the end of December, 1990, there were 21 registered players (including 4 boys), ranging in age from 7-14. We played as one team that first season in exhibition games and a few tournaments, as a Petite team. The other leagues supplied the ice time which gave our players actual hands on experience and increased desire to play the game.

Our practices were on Mondays from 6-7 pm (cancelled when there was a stat holiday). With only one ice surface, ice time was at a premium. We took morning ice and outdoor ice times, with some grumbling, but had no other option if we wanted more practice. We survived but were very excited to hear the arena would be expanding to two ice surfaces.

The First Annual Friendship Tournament, a one-day event, was held in our second year on November 16, 1991, and was a huge success for our league. It was a motivational boost to everyone - players, coaches, and parents. It is still run each year in mid-November and is always full. It is a day packed with fun, eagerness, friendship and hard work.

The first year was a learning experience. We needed an organization, players, coaches, volunteers, parents, sponsors, ice time and enthusiasm for the game. We got it all and Ringette has faced and met the many challenges and obstacles. Due to the generous support of the parents, players, coaches, sponsors, and the Town of Drayton Valley as a whole, Ringette has proven that a little encouragement; a lot of determination, dedication and hard work really does go a long way. My visions have become a reality and the growth and success of Ringette in the community has shown that the individuals of Drayton Valley "pulling together" to give a new sport a chance has made a tremendous difference.

Marielle Battersby, a dedicated mom, has been involved with Ringette from the early beginnings as a coach and part of the Tournament committee. She has had three children play the game over the past 10 years with her youngest daughter moving up through the levels.

Cheryl Letendre, another determined mom has been with Ringette since 1993, holding positions of Secretary, President and this year being the Zone 5 representative.

Ray Anderson, a dad who has unselfishly volunteered his time to coach has been a permanent part of the ice scene since 1992, bringing his team of Tweens to Junior today. The Juniors are contended for the Provincials with 15 wins, 6 ties, and 0 losses to their credit for the 1999 - 2000 season.

Bob and Karen Martin both have persevered as Ringette has grown. Karen has held position of president and Bob is a certified ref. Both have overseen ref allocating. January, 2000 has seen Bob receiving "Ref of the Month" from Ringette Alberta.

Drayton Valley Ringette has had a wonderful

Drayton Valley Ringette Association – Charter Year – 1990-1991. Executive: President; Lorraine Polei, Vice-President; Bev MacDonald, Secretary; Lorraine Polei, Treasurer; Dwayne Zeller, Equipment Manager: Terry Lauder. Team: (7 – 14) played as Petites, Head Coach: Claude Arsenault, Junior Coaches: Troy McGinn and Robin Smashnuk, Sponsor; DIAL Oilfield Services, Team Photo 1990-1991; Back Row – Troy McGinn (Jr. Coach); Scott Kaufmann, Melissa Kennedy, Patricia Hutchinson, Amanda Polei, Robin (Jr. Coach), Kristy Reesor, Amanda Rathgeber, Shelley Williams, Janice Caporale, Claude Arsenault (Head Coach), Middle Row: Dillon Pare, Carla McGinn, Julie Kaufmann, Cheryl Polei (Goalie), Christine Zeller, Jayme Erickson, Amanda Smashnuk, Front Row: Amber MacDonald, Melissa Rinas, Karla Lauder, Melanie Battersby, Brian Battersby, Christopher Erickson

group of parents, players, coaches, and volunteers over the last 10 years improving the league with all their talents and enthusiasm. Ringette has definitely taken roots in the community.

RINGETTE TODAY

Executive

President – Robyn Wakeford Secretary – Marlene Nicholls

Vice-president – Peter Holmes Treasurer – Paul McKinnon

TEAMS Bunny (5-7)	Coaches – Fred Nicholls, Muriel Meyers
	Sponsor – Bredal Energy
Novice (7-9)	Coaches – Lori Becher, Rob Morrison
	Sponsor – Petro Can
Petite (9-11)	No team this year
	Sponsor – DIAL Oilfield
Tweens (12-13)	Coaches – Les Molzan, Deb Manwaring
	Sponsor – Nelson Bros.
Junior (14-15)	Coaches – Ray Anderson, Jody Stang
	Sponsor – Flint Engineering
Ladies Rec (16 & up)	Sponsor – Prairie Mountain

– Drayton Valley Ringette has 60 players on 5 teams
– Alberta has 340 teams involving 4400 players
– The league has ice time of 1-1½ hours weekly for each team with two hours on Saturday or Sunday for games.
– There are 7 certified refs from Drayton Valley
– The annual Friendship Tournament is run in mid-November which coincides with National Ringette Week and carries a full roster.
– 1996 saw the first ever Drayton Valley Ringette team head to Provincials at the Petite level – the Dial Raptors
– 1997-1998 – the Petite and Tween teams were eligible to attend Provincials.

1998-1999 – the Tween and Petite teams won the Zone 5 playoffs and were again eligible for Provincials.

DRAYTON VALLEY PRESENTS CONCERT SOCIETY

Drayton Valley Presents is a non-profit society that has been bringing touring performers to the community since 1977.

Throughout the years, D.V. Presents has put on close to 80 shows. The entertainers that have come to town have been as varied as the shows themselves. It's hard to pick out just a few from so many acts, but here are some of the highlights.

There's been Gilbert and Sullivan operettas with

the Edmonton Opera Company performing the Mikado, The Pirates of Penzance, The Gondoliers and H.M.S. Pinafore. The Opera Touring Association performed the Broadway musicals Oklahoma, and My Fair Lady. Who can forget Derril Butler with his deep, resonant voice, playing Tevy in Fiddler on the Roof?

Bobby Curtola and his band and dancers gave us an evening of nostalgia. Curtola is known as "Mr. Personality" in Las Vegas and the 300 people who turned out in Drayton Valley certainly found out why.

Trumpeter Gary Guthman and his 17-piece band, which featured Tommy Banks, put on a "Tribute to Harry James." Renowned folk singer Stan Rogers performed in Drayton Valley a few months before his untimely death.

There was an evening of song by the Sweet Adelines and a barbershop quartet. The talented young people of the Calgary Fiddlers got everyone's feet tapping. We've listened to a cappella harmonizing by the Melloyds and Earthtones. Let's not forget Nico and his magic flute, all the way from Russia, or award winning harpist, Joanna Jordan. Audiences enjoyed Edmonton's Vinok Folk Dance Company and the musical trio, Mississippi Steamboat.

But it has not been music all the way. D.V. Presents introduced Drayton Valley to mime comedy from Arete, impressionist Don Hambley and CBC's radio comedy personality Lorne Elliott from Montreal.

D.V. Presents celebrated it's 20th anniversary in 1997. The occasion was marked with a dinner and dance with entertainment by Calgary's Stratus musical comedy group. The same year the Arts Foundation of Alberta presented Mary Poloway, President of Drayton Valley Presents, with a certificate honoring the society's twenty years of promoting the arts.

D.V. Presents is assisted by the Arts Foundation of Alberta. Current volunteer executive and board members are: Anita Layden, Sheila Edwards, Lee Riesterer, Cara Lea Beaver, Mary Bogart, Betty McGee, Jeannette Vatter, Rosemarie Mayan and Mary Poloway.

DRAYTON VALLEY ROYAL PURPLE LODGE #196

Written by Bernice Water

On March 18, 1956 the Drayton Valley Lodge #196 of the Royal was officially instituted in the banquet room of the Drayton Valley Hotel. There were 35 Charter Members present and many guests from Mercoal, Jasper, Entwistle, Edson, Spruce Grove and Gainford Lodges.

Charter Members

Dorothy Pickell	Jean Roberts	Marge Creelman
Enid Seibert	Shirley Tolchard	Valerie Fraser
Vivian Peterson	Helen Leshenko	Marjorie Hoyle
Marge Gallant	Donald Smith	Betty Trollope
Jeanne Reed	Esther Davidson	Mary Burrows
Madge Wall	Eunice Dennis	Vivian Sand
Hilda Rand	Cecelia MacKenzie	Margot Meier
Gladys McMorris	Leslie Hamilton	Joyce Fraser
Donna Sweinson	Peggy MacDonald	Blanche Watson
Joan Machan	Ethel Gregory	Gerry Weston
Connie Humphrey	Eunice Lebirk	Helen Casson
Audrey Rattray	Phyllis Redl	

The services rendered to the community of Drayton Valley by the Lodge are so many and varied, it would be difficult to name them all. Some that stand out (in random order) are:

- Assisted in organization of Drayton Valley Senior Citizens Club
- Promoted and assisted in establishment of Shangri-la Lodge
- Promoted the establishment of Wishing well and Lezure Lea Apts for seniors, and participated, with the Elks, in operating them until 1994
- Provided Christmas Parties for seniors for a number of years.
- Provided awards for each schoolroom in Elementary & Junior High, and bursaries for High School since 1987
- Provided coffee and donuts for every Blood Donor Clinic in Drayton Valley since Feb 25/87
- Assisted with Breast Mammograph Clinic since its inception
- Assisted with Drug Awareness Program
- Assisted Elks to host two Elk-a-thons
- Catered for community functions
- Promoted and assisted in operation of Life Support Emergency Response System for Drayton Valley and district
- Assisted local children through our main Charity, The Elks Purple Cross Fund
- Purchased a scooter for loan to needy disabled persons
- Purchased an auditory machine for the Audiologist to test school children for hearing loss
- Assisted in hosting the Official Opening of the Omniplex
- Assisted in hosting the 1994 Winter Games in Drayton Valley
- Assisted the Brother Elks with the operation and maintenance of the Elks Community Center.

Added to all this, the friendships that have developed out of the association with the Royal Purple, the comradeship and good will that cannot be measured, and the sheer fun we have all had together over the years, and you begin to see the real contribution the Royal Purple Lodge #196 has made

to the town of Drayton Valley since its inception in 1956.

DRAYTON VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION

By Jean Stewart

In order to appreciate, somewhat, the beginnings of our R.E.A., it is necessary for us to let our minds wander back to the time of its inception.

We lived in an area which was largely undeveloped. The farm industry was in its infancy, much like the oil industry was. There were very few acreages or trailer courts. The farms themselves were small and mostly unmechanized. The use of "horse power" was still quite prevalent. Basic necessities like sewer, gas, and phones were nonexistent. Running water still meant a quick trip to the well with a bucket. All important means of communication, roads, bridges or vehicles are today a wondering memory of "the good old days" to those of us who remember.

Today, we can only imagine how limited the environment was that the average family was exposed to in those times. What did most of them understand about electricity, financing, corporate structures or community organization? Nevertheless, in December of 1954, a group of modernistic thinking individuals including Mr. & Mrs. Everett Brandt, Eric Turner, Ernest Lindskoog, Wm. Dusterhoft, along with J.S. Anderson from Calgary Power set the wheels in motion. It was an enormous task to organize and attempt to educate enough members to enable these early beginnings. Let us appreciate that these individuals were themselves not too well informed or educated about electricity, its potential uses, or its hazards, yet they were prepared to present the idea to the community.

The first board was composed of chosen directors; Ernest Lindskoog, Wm. Dustorhoft, Eric Turner, Dave Glen, Lewis Williams, and later Vic Ball and Leaf Stordalsvoll. At this same meeting, the proposed name "Drayton Valley Rural Electrification Association" was brought forward by Wm. Dusterhoft, and is still used today. A basic infrastructure was set up and the humble beginnings had their roots.

Experience proved to this first group that change is accepted slowly. Most people feared a change in their lifestyle, and would have nothing to do with the organization, even to the point of refusing to allow a right of way, for through lines to their neighbors. Some refused adamantly to join; a few never joined even to this modern day.

Needless to say, many of the meetings were not without some heated discussions on any number of topics: probably the most recent has been the application of herbicides for brush control.

It is interesting to note the original yard service cost was $215.00. O.C. was $2.00 per month, E.C. at 2¢ KWH, with an outlay of $650.00 to hook up. Financing and terms were arranged by the Alberta Government over a ten year period, at 3.5% fixed interest rate-very attractive by today's standards.

Power was actually turned on to the first members in 1956. This was approximately two years from the organizational beginning, to the actual system beginning to come on stream. There were 62 members at the initiation of service.

An anecdote from April 21, 1958, meeting cited the need for removal of the president due to the lack of co-operation, remembering that other than the secretary, the other positions were voluntary and unpaid. Even today, only the secretary is actually receiving a wage for her numerous duties, while directors receive a small fee for attending meetings.

The date of January 12, 1968, after association with the R.E.A. since 1960, Maurice McCullagh became the new President, a position to which he devoted a keen interest and his best efforts until his passing on November 17th, 1987, after a battle with cancer.

Drayton Valley R.E.A. first joined the union of R.E.A.'s on January 29th, 1962, after two members had attended the annual convention. This became the beginning of a somewhat variable association with the union which is still not too well cemented as we have since withdrawn our membership

The Association has seen the needs of its members grow. Over the years, larger power consumption, bigger transformers, heavier breakers, "radio interference", lightning arrestors, auto re-sets, etc., provide better service and reduce down time during storms

On July 19, 1976, a motion was made not to sell our R.E.A. to TransAlta. It was passed allowing our R.E.A., which is one of the healthiest in the province, to remain independent and continue to be governed as in the past. We presently have 462 members and are continuing to grow.

Some long time serving members from the past:

Mac McCullagh 1960 to Nov. 17, 1987.
Wm. Dusterhoft from our inception in 1954-1999
Mrs. Thelma Herndon 1954-1961
Margaret Henkel March 7, 1977-December 3 1984
Jean Stewart 1984-still serving.

Directors:
Peter Kwanycia March 10, 1980-1996
Ben Bustin March 10, 1980, still serving

Wm. Dusterhoft since origination of the group in 1954, presently presiding as president, taking over from Maurice McCullagh. Two others Walter Turtiak since 1982 and Bohdan Urchyshyn since 1970. Bohdan often volunteered to attend distant meetings of the union, other R.E.A's, or TransAlta information seminars, helping us keep abreast and informed of what is happening or how decisions being made elsewhere may affect our organization in the future.

Many of us presently involved share the consensus of comradeship during our R.E.A. meetings, remembering that still some housewife hosts meetings for directors in her private home. Maybe we do come just for the fresh coffee, baking, or fellowship, but we do appreciate the satisfaction that comes from doing something worthwhile and necessary within our community. We hear the high compliments of our R.E.A. being well run, efficient, and with only a few minor complaints over the years. We agree among ourselves that electricity is probably the utility we would be least willing to do without. It is truly the silent servant so necessary to our modern way of life.

We are confident as we look toward the future that there will continue to be a number of keenly interested individuals to carry our R.E.A into the next century.

Mr. Everett Brandt who celebrated his 90th birthday in 1988, wrote the following: Mr. E. Turner and Les Herndon were trying to have a meeting to form an R.E.A. They asked me if they could have a meeting at our place. I said "yes" to get the people of Violet-Grove interested. We had the meeting, and they told us it would cost us $1050.00. It was then decided that we would organize. We had a meeting in Drayton Valley Hall in 1954. Eric Turner was elected president and Ed Hines vice-president. Mrs. Les Herndon was secretary. Mr. Anderson from Farm Electric was there. Easyford did not join in 1954 but did in 1995. The R.E.A. area was formed into districts. I represented Violet Grove. The members from each district were the board of directors. In 1955, Ed Hines was elected president. He stayed on for several terms. I was director for several years.

A Mr. Anderson from Farm Electric told us to wait and see when the oil companies would apply for electricity. If Calgary Power put in the lines for the oil company we could hook onto their lines without any cost to our R.E.A. The first 25 members got their power for $650.00 and cut brush for their lines to the buildings. When the rest applied for power in 1955, it cost them $ 750.00.

OUR PRESIDENTS OVER THE YEARS WERE:

Eric Turner	1954-1958
Ed Hines	1958-1959
Ernest Lindskoog	1959-196 7
Maurice McCullagh	1967-1987
Wm. Dusterhoft	1988-retired February 25, 1999

DIRECTORS OVER THE YEARS WERE:

Mrs. Inez Oscar	
Ernest Lindskoog	1954-1967
Wm. Dusterhoft	1954-1999
Eric Turner	1954-1967
Dave Glen	1954-1956
Leif Stordalsvoll	1954-1959
Lewis Williams	1954-1977
Vic Ball	1954-1956
Everett Brandt	1956-1970
Swanny Jonzon	1956-1960
Ed Hines	1958-1968
Fred Berezowski	1969-1980
Ernie Whitlam	1959-1963
Maurice McCullagh	1960-1987
Robert Johnson	1963-1968
Roman Vowk	1967-1980
Albert Hodgson	1968-1975
Bohdan Urchyshyn	1970-present
Ole Stordalsvoll	1975-1987
Dean Meraw	1977-1980
Ben Bustin	1980-1989
Peter Kwasnycia	1980 – passed away May 5, 1996
Walter Turtiak	1982-present
Cliff Whitelock	1987-1996
Peter Greschuk	present
David Starling	1989-present
Les Sonderson	1989-present
Ray Broadbent	1996-present
Darwin Mulroy	1997-present
Don Drebert	1999-replaced Willie D.

OUR SECRETARIES OVER THE YEARS WERE:

Thelma Herndon	1954-1961
Mr. Al Gottschalk	1961-1974
Mr. Roman Vowk	1975-1977
Margaret Henkel	1977-1984
Jean Stewart	1985-present

OUR AUDITORS OVER THE YEARS WERE:

Mr. M. A. Leippi & Co.	1956-1958
Mr. Al Gottschalk	1959-1960, 1977, 1978, 1986-1989
Mr. Lyt Krauter	1961-196 7
Mr. Adrien Meiers	1968-1976
Serenas and Associates	1977-1984
Tim Kjorlien	1984 and 1985

LIFE SUPPORT SOCIETY OF DRAYTON VALLEY AND DISTRICT

Submitted by Bertha Simon, Hy Dahl and Miriam Roberts

The idea for this society originated in the Wishing Well Apartments at a board meeting of the Purple Pansy Senior Citizens' Association. Gladys McMorris read out some information about a support system to enable senior citizens to live longer in their own homes without fear of being unable to call for assistance in an emergency. Gladys talked to interested people, then went back to the next board meeeting and told them what she had done. The

board followed that up by sending out letters to community organizations, service clubs, doctors etc., in January 1984, explaining what they hoped to achieve. There would be a speaker in Drayton Valley at the Seniors' Drop-in Centre. She was from Lifeline® Systems Inc. of Boston, Massachusetts, and would make a presentation and demonstrate their equipment and give a rundown of costs for equipment and operation.

There was a good representation from organizations as well as interested people from Evansburg, Entwistle and Rocky Rapids. At the meeting Linda Thompson, Miriam Roberts, Gladys McMorris, Eleanor Pickup and Cathy Dusterhoft agreed to form a steering committee, with Hyacinth Dahl, Mary deJong, Sylvia Booth, John Mulligan and Marie Butts of Entwistle volunteering to help. Sylvia Booth, nursing coordinator of the future Extended Care wing of new Drayton Valley Hospital, would be pleased to have the Response Centre located there. The Drayton Valley Hospital board had to be approached for consent.

An organizational meeting was held on March 14, 1984, at Seniors Drop-in Centre. The executive was elected: Linda Thompson, president, Fred Duckett, vice-president, Gladys McMorris, treasurer, and Miriam Roberts, secretary. The ground work was started and the organization was named "Lifeline". Later it was changed to Life Support Society of Drayton Valley and District.

A donation of $5000 from the The Purple Pansy Association started Life Support off. Letters were sent out to businesses, oil companies, organizations etc. for further donations.

Permisssion was granted by the Hospital Board to set up the response centre in Extended Care, Lifeline® Systems Inc., was the chosen equipment.

A lawyer was contacted to advise and help us draw up Bylaws, policies, contracts and becoming a society. It took a lot of time and energy to get everything in place, including becoming a society registered with the Alberta Registries on December 20, 1984.

We would be serving a large area surrounding Drayton Valley, Wildwood to the Northwest, Seba Beach to Northeast, Winfield to Southeast, and Alder Flats to South West.

After a year of planning, installation of The Response Centre took place on March 5 and 6, 1985, at the Hospital Extended Care. Home communicators and pendants, which the client wore around their neck or pinned to their clothing, were essential components of the system. When the client pressed the pendant a signal could be sent to The Response Centre, where a card with the client I.D. # was kept along with the client's name and pertinent medical information. Three home communicators were installed in Drayton Valley on these two days, by Bertha Simon and Paul Spurrell. One unit was used for testing to ensure the system was working and to train the Life Support volunteers in the use of the equipment and completing the necessary application forms. One of these clients is still on the system in the year 2000, and living in her own home. Some Alberta Government Telephones personnel also donated their expertise to help us start up.

On installation of a home unit, the client must have three responders who are neighbours, relatives or friends who live close by, and they must have a key to the client's house. When a signal for help is received at the Response Centre, the staff contacts the responders to go and check the client. They decide whether they can handle the situation, or whether an ambulance is required. A key lock box containing the client's key is put on the door of the client's residence. The Ambulance and R.C.M.P. have master keys to these boxes.

The Official Opening of Life Support Society of Drayton Valley and District took place on March 31, 1985, at The Drayton Valley and District Health Complex, Extended Care Unit at 7.30. p.m., followed by a lunch. Five more units were installed in the next few months, 2 in Evansburg, 2 in Wildwood an 1 in Seba Beach. With thanks to volunteers and donations received, we had 10 units on line when the year ended.

We had open house on our first anniversary, and displayed the system to interested people at the Trade Fair in Drayton Valley.

In September 1985, the system proved its worth. One of our clients was saved from long suffering and/or possible death through the Lifeline® Service. Life Support saw the time and money spent come into fruitition. Again in 1988, one of our clients had a situation that could have proven fatal if not for the Lifeline® system which was installed a day earlier. She was able to hit the personal help button before she passed out. One of the responders was able to come over to check her. Then the Ambulance was called by the Response Centre and she was taken to hospital and later transferred to Edmonton. An average of 2 to 3 actual emergency calls a year have been responded to during the years we have been in service. False alarms do come in some times triggered accidentally by the client or by a curious child or animal!

In 1995, Life Support celebrated its tenth anniversary. By this time it had helped ease the minds of approximately 150 people through the installation of home communicators. At this time 12

volunteers were serving 57 clients using the system. In February 2000, we have 51 clients, of which 9 are in Shangri La Lodge. We expanded our service to include the latter in May 1999.

For convenience, Life Support changed the equipment to Skytech brand in 1988, which was manufactured in Leduc. It was more accessible for maintenance. To keep up with changing technology, Life Support again had another transition into the Tunstall equipment. These home communicators allowed voice communication between the response centre and the client. This took place in October of 1998. At this time, the response centre was relocated to Valley Communications Ltd., as staffing changes put a strain on the resources at the Hospital.

The client is responsible for paying a nominal monthly monitoring fee. Costs have been kept down to a minimum by having volunteers doing the work, and donations from companies, individuals,memorials, service clubs, church groups, and grants from New Horizons, Wild Rose Foundation and FCSS. Donors have been issued with charitable receipts for their donations.

Through the continued help of volunteers we hope to serve the area for years to come.

OIL WIVES CLUB OF DRAYTON VALLEY

Submitted by Mary Poloway

In early 1958, the Oil Wives Club of Drayton Valley was organized with the assistance of the Edmonton Club. The purpose of forming this Club was to bring women together whose husbands worked in the oil and gas industry. There were many families that came to Drayton Valley from across Canada and the United States. Many women didn't know anyone when they moved here and the Oil Wives Club gave them the opportunity to meet other women in the same situation.

On March 20, 1958, the first dinner meeting was held at the Drayton Valley hotel with 107 women in attendance for the charter night. The dinner menu offered juice, coffee, ice cream and salad included: roast beef – $1.79; steak – $2.50; roast turkey – $2.25; and a mixed cold plate for $2.00.

At the September dinner meeting there were 125 ladies present with 58 on the waiting list. The Cardium Room at the hotel could only accommodate 125. It had been decided to meet on the second Monday of every month except for July and August.

In the early years, the programs included speak-

Oilwives. L-R, Back row, Marg Balen, Twyla Gardiner, Marian Beck, Carol Kokas, Lavern Brown, Lil Moody. Middle row, Ellen Cox, Jeannette Vatter, Mary Poloway, Gil Hasenclever, Pat Jenkins. Bottom row, Betty Orlesky, Peg Metcalfe, Lil Ross, Marg Bailey, Carol McGloughlin

ers, fashion shows, skits, sing songs, craft lessons and some nights just socializing. Special interest groups were formed such as bowling, curling, bridge, a music group and even driving lessons. An annual softball tournament was held between a few other Oil Wives clubs. At the present time, a one-day golf tournament is very popular.

When Lil Ross joined in the fall of 1958, music became a big part of the club. She organized the first Talent Night and it became a big part of the club. She would get a group of the ladies to play instruments, sing, act and whatever else was needed to put on a show. This became so popular that the Club was often asked to provide entertainment for different functions in the community. For example, the "Lighthouse" skit was performed five times in one year and a few more times throughout the years.

The Oil Wives Club held many dances in the early years for the entire community. They were very popular because of the entertainment and the theme of the dances, such as Western Wing Ding and the Sweetheart Ball. The anniversary banquets and dances were memorable. The 20th, 25th, 35th and 40th celebrations brought as many as 350 people. When the Drayton Valley Club celebrated its 25th year, they hosted one of the largest annual Oil Wives conventions with 575 women attending from all over Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan. This event was held in Edmonton as Drayton Valley didn't have room to hold such a large function. The local Oil Wives members also have entertained at many Oil Wives conventions throughout the years.

Because of the large membership in the Club, requests were numerous to assist local and charitable organizations. They assisted with the local swimming competitions, ran baby-sitting courses and organized the Heart Fund Campaign for many years.

At present, there are two active charter members: Bess Balen and Mary Poloway. The Association of Oil Wives honored Lil Ross and Peggy Metcalfe as lifetime members. Several of the members have received perfect attendance – as many as 10, 15 and 25 years. This is quite an accomplishment considering many drove from Cynthia and Lodgepole to attend the meetings.

Throughout the years, the Club recognized the outstanding efforts of the members and presented them with honorary membership. To date, the following women, who are still active in the Club, have been given this honor: Betty Badick, Marg Balen, May Barker, Marion Beck, Sandy Brisebois, Gil Hasenclever, Joyce Hayduk, Lovetta Kjorlien, Eunice Lyle, Peggy Metcalfe, Jeanette Miner, Ellen Nielsen, Mary Poloway and Jeannette Vatter.

In the year 2003, the Oil Wives Club of Drayton Valley continues to be an active club committed to the original purpose of promoting friendship and still has one of the largest memberships in the Association of Oil Wives Clubs.

First Café in Drayton 1954

POWERHOUSE COMMUNITY LEARNING COUNCIL

Prior to 1972 the recreation board, with Mike Gormley as Recreation Director, organized recreation and cultural education.

From 1972 until 1978 the County of Parkland Continuing Education out of Stony Plain worked with Alberta Agriculture office, Town of Drayton Valley Parks, Recreation and Culture who channeled course requests and funding through Stony Plain.

In March of 1978 a public meeting was held to discuss the feasibility of organizing a Further Education council as over 100 organizations were operating adult programs in the Drayton Valley area. Seventeen of these organizations were represented at a follow-up meeting in April.

The Powerhouse Further Education Council was formed in April of 1978 with the Roman Catholic Separate School Board #111 as the designated host authority through which grant applications from the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower could be channeled. Betty McGee was the first chairman and Susan Bentley the first vice-chairman. Marlene Pasula was the first administrative assistant for the council, as well as the Program coordinator for the Town Recreation Department. Supporting Agencies were Chamber of Commerce, Alberta Agriculture, Ministerial Association, AADAC, Health Unit, RCMP, and representatives from all the schools.

In 1980 community meetings were organized to discuss bringing post-secondary and university credit courses to Drayton Valley. Jenny Harris had previously voluntarily coordinated these courses.

Provincial Building

Eventually, the Pembina Educational Consortium began programs in September of 1981.

On October 19, 1983, Powerhouse became one of the first Further Education Councils to be a registered society in the province and totally autonomous from any host agency. The volunteer council was responsible for hiring/contracting administrative help, providing office space, insurance, and initiating courses to meet demands from the community. The Powerhouse Further Education Council opened an office in the Pembina Consortium building – the Meraw building at 5225-55a St.

In July 1989 Powerhouse moved uptown when the Pembina Educational Consortium relocated to 5149-51 Av. (formerly the town office and firehall, next to the cemetery and across from the Legion and Provincial Building). Being closer to the business district made registration easier.

Between1997 and 1999 the restructuring in the Department of Advanced Education and Career Development brought about many changes in policy, guidelines, and council names. As of January 2000, Powerhouse Community Learning is one of 83 councils mandated to provide lifelong learning opportunities to Alberta communities. All are funded in part under the Ministry of Learning (formerly Advanced Education).

Powerhouse now has a separate office in the new facility for the Pembina Educational Consortium at 5556 – 50 ave.

A volunteer council made up of community members elects an executive committee who oversee the administration of the council following the policy set out by the provincial government. To date, there has been one paid part-time 'coordinator' who works with the community.

Marlene Pasula – 1978 to 1981
Joan Duckett – 1981 to Jan 1985
Cathy Marshall – Jan 1985 to Sept 1985
Val Tucker – Sept 1985 to present (2001)

Chairpersons:

1978 – Betty McGee
1984 – Vicki Johnston
1985 (until June) – Dennis Woolsey
1985/86 – Joan Duckett
1987 - March 1988 – Ed Haykowski (County of Parkland represntative)
1989 to 1992 – Alvina Sperling
1992 to 1993 – Sharon Buchan
1994 to 1995 – Bev Dekker
1996 to present – Sue Reid

In 1992, a new policy to sell advertising in the Powerhouse Course Guides was approved. Any organization, person, agency, or business offering a learning service could buy space. The tabloid – 40 pages in length, is recognized in the community as a 'catalogue of learning'.

Some major projects for Powerhouse have been, five Christmas Kickoffs, 1992 to 1996, which were held on a Saturday in October. A full day of crafting with a guest speaker, special luncheon and door prizes was very popular. Local businesses have taken over and continued with a similar format.

MacPhee Workshop Fashion Show – three successful fundraisers were held in the fall (1993,1994, & 1995) with Linda MacPhee who brings a show filled with creative fashion designs and outerwear for the home sewer.

The Garden Party – Keeping with trends, Powerhouse began a May afternoon Garden party complete with tea, dessert, demonstrations and displays from local nurseries.

Women's Conference – In 1995, Powerhouse, with sponsorship from the Drayton Valley & District Agricultural Society, began organizing a Fall Women's Conference: Town Meets Country. This has become an annual event featuring motivational speakers on a variety of topics.

The name 'Powerhouse' represents the name of an early settlement along the river prior to World War I where a dam and powerhouse were once planned. Later locations on higher ground were renamed Drayton Valley. To avoid confusion with the more common names used in the area, the early organizers chose 'Powerhouse' which also refers to something 'very strong'. Powerhouse continues to be a strong element in our community.

THE BEEHIVE

By Bruce Nichols, Executive Director

The Beehive was incorporated under the Societies Act of the Province of Alberta as "The Drayton Valley Association for the Developmentally Handicapped" on September 26th, 1975. The Association officially changed its name to its current one, "The Drayton Valley Association for Community Living", June 20, 1989. This change

in name of the Association was to reflect the emphasis of the Association on community integration of the individuals we serve. The majority of the individuals the Association now serves live and work in the community in homes and workplaces of their choice. Despite our change in name we are still known locally as the "Beehive", a name that still reminds all of us of our history.

In August of 1990, the Association moved to a new vocational center in what was the old Pembina Consortium building. This move was made to accommodate the increase in demand for our support services and our Bottle Depot operation.

With the new emphasis on community integration, the individuals that were living at our Green Acres group home moved out into homes of their choice and by April of 1993, Green Acres group home was empty and sold.

We continue to this day with providing the individuals we serve with the opportunities of freedom of choice. With the tremendous support of the community over the years, the "Beehive" has been able to provide the individuals it serves the opportunity to live in their home community with all the dignity, respect and freedom of choice afforded to us all. We have not forgotten the tremendous courage it took Norma Howatt and other parents and volunteers to establish the "Beehive" and to lay the ground work for all developmentally disabled individuals to live and work in our community.

THE BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS

Drayton Valley Lodge #391

The Drayton Valley Community Hall was built in 1932-33 by volunteer labor on one acre of land donated by Mr. Dick Davis who was the owner of NE 8-49-7 W5M who designated that the land be used always for community purposes for the cost of $1.00

The hall became the center for all community activities. In the middle of the 1950's with the discovery of oil, the town began to grow. An addition was built on the east side, electricity, modern plumbing, kitchen and a bar were installed. Money for this was raised by a mortgage for $8000. The Elks used the Community Hall for their meetings and other activities. For two years, money was raised by bingos and dances.

In 1957, the Drayton Valley Community Hall was passed on to the Elk Lodge #391, who assumed the responsibility for the mortgage, which was $8000.

The first installation of officers was held June 28, 1955. WT Anderson was the first Exhalted Ruler

Old Drayton Valley Elk's Community Hall with the new hall in the background, 1979

with 73 members. The Elks built an addition on the south side of the hall which was used for barbecuing for a few years. The Elks #391 Community Centre Society was formed. They purchased the Blocks Store from Mr. Hamdon in 1978, which was renovated into a new community hall in 1978-79. The Elks Community Centre Official Opening was held on April 28, 1979.

In 1980 the old Elks Community Hall was demolished after being used as a community center for 47 years, and the land is now used for hall parking.

An addition to the hall was built along the west side in 1989 for storage and offices for O.O.R.P. and Elk members. Money was raised by bingos, Nevada cards, dances, pancake breakfasts, Christmas parties, raffles, by renting the hall to different organizations and provincial government grants. The cost of the building after renovation was about $300,000. Steak Suppers were started in the early 1980's, and were held every Friday and are still going on to this day.

The history of Elkdom started in Canada on September 26, 1912; the first lodge being in Vancouver, BC. The Drayton Valley Elks and Ladies of the Order of Royal Purple held a dance to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Elkdom on October 3, 1987. They booked a band from Edmonton known as the Emeralds and sold tickets. Everyone had a good time. Exhalted Ruler, Brother Ira Haight, thanked everyone for attending, and also honored Royal Lady Schwalbe who gave a short speech and thanked everyone. MLA Shirley Cripps also was a speaker. In the history of the Drayton Valley Elks Lodge #391 since the beginning, hundreds of thousands of dollars were donated towards all sorts of charitable organizations such as the Elks Purple Cross Fund, Early Detection of Hearing Loss in Children, Drug Awareness, Stuttering Institute, Minor Hockey, Help for Under Privileged Children and other community projects.

An Elk head was donated by Brother Ron Pruden which was mounted on a cape above the main entrance door to the hall. The cost of mounting was $135 in 1967.

In the 1970's, there were about 135 Elk members. Some of them moved to different areas and 26 members passed away. Now there are 60 members.

Charter Members – Drayton Valley Lodge #391
June 28, 1955 – 73 members

WJ Anderson	R. George
RJ Burrows	JF Gregor
DA Seibert	M. Gregory
LT Hoyle	MD Hamilton
H Humphrey	JI Hanson
C Foulds	CM Harris
JP Redl	SN Haukedal
H Zolmer	GS Norton
SR Hill	AW Hunka
R Wilson	J Lamb
G Evans	G Maniquet
H Forecast	GH Mann
A Lloyd	PG Anderson
RD Amos	A. Meier
DW Anderson	M.Molner
RG Aitchison	JC Morin
L Ballantine	TL McMeckan
R Blasner	DJ MacNeill
HJ Brown	KD Nugis
JR Clements	T Patterson
JE Cox	DLA Pearson
SC Edkins	M.Berry
AH Evanson	ML Powers
P. Fitzgerald	JA Pruden
CJ Fraser	BL Rand
WF Fraser	AA Roth
CF Fraser	LR Simoneau
CD Fuhr	RE Smale
PJ Gagnon	RL Tocher
JH Watson	BL Quick
DR Wilson	F Roberts
LG Wilson	KF Sharratt
LA Stahler	W Simpson
RL Treit	DG Winter
SV Worral	

Past Exalted Ruler for Drayton Valley Elks #391

1955	WJ Anderson
1956	L Hoyle
1957	H Forcast
1958/59	David Rand
1960/61	FE Thompson
1962/63/64	RO Simon
1965	L Wall
1966	E Litke
1967	R Merschel
1968	J Hazzard
1969	E Kelly
1970	LB Hagen
1971	E Kelly
1972	H Cathrea
1973	J Suffron
1974	Gil Mitchell
1975	Dave Lundberg
1976	Donald Fontana
1977/78	Les Gamblin
1979	Nick Urchyshyn
1980	Fred Snell
1981	Raymond Wieting
1982	Terry Brown
1983	Arnold Olsen
1984/85	Bohdan Urchyshyn
1986/87	Ira Haight
1988	Marvin Schuster
1989	Earl Kelly
1990	Robert Clark
1991/92	William Dunnington
1993/94/95	Otto Hansen
1996/97	William Dunnington
1998/99	Les Sonderson

Past District Deputy District #13 Alberta

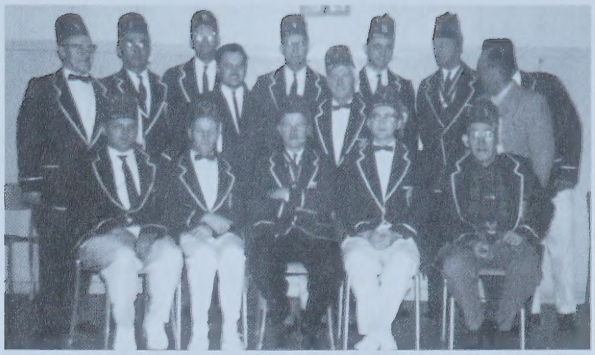
1970/71	RT Cowan
1973/74	Earl Kelly
1978	F.Earl Thompson
1980/81	David Lundberg
1993/94	William Dunnington
1997/98/99	Ira Haight

In Memorium – Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
Drayton Valley Lodge #391

1925-1957	Earl H. Dennis
1921-1961	James Ross
1895-1968	Lester Miller
1905-1970	George Van Ember
1884-1971	Eric Edholm
1920-1972	Dr. Ian Waugh
1911-1973	Bertram Palmer
1903-1976	Joseph A Pruden
1923-1976	Ed Bengston
1943-1977	John Mitchell
1907-1979	Conrad Fuhr
1920-1982	Robert Simon
1917-1983	Jason Jay Hazzard
1920-1988	William Copeman
1918-1990	Sam Parenteau
1915-1992	George McMorris
1915-1993	Roland Mattoon
1915-1993	Earl Kelly
1906-1995	John McKenzie
1927-1996	John Suffron
1919-1996	Roy Steeves
1934-1996	Arnold Brown
1919-1997	Lorne Hilts
1917-1997	Earl Thompson
1928-1998	Frank Janishewski
1918-1999	Clarence Chenery

District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Brother Earl Kelly, 1973 to 1974

Brother Eric Edholm was one of the first to join the Elk's #391



Drayton Valley Elk's #391 Officers, Exalted Ruler Brother Ed Litke, Leading Knight Brother Jay Hazzard, Loyal Knight Brother Rudy Merchell, Lecturing Knight Brother, Bob Cowan, Esquire Brother Ross Dickee, Inner Guard Brother Ed Remple, Secretary Brother John Jansen, Treasurer Brother Arnold Lloyd, Publicity Director Brother A.M. Sovictor, Chaplin Brother Lester Miller, Historian Brother John Paley, Brother Paul Berzniak, Brother Art Munro, Brother Earl Thompson.

R to L, Trustees, Brother Bohdan Urchyshyn, Brother Ira Haight and Brother Marvin Schuster receiving pins by Sherwood Park Drill Team

Drayton Valley Elk's #391 and D.O.R.P #169, 1991, Installation of officers. L to R, Exalted Ruler Brother William Dunnington, Leading Knight Brother Otto Hansen, Loyal Knight Brother Andy Kjorlien, Lecturing Knight Brother Walter Turtiak, Secretary Brother Ira Haight, Treasurer Brother Arnold Olson, Chaplin Brother Earl Thompson, Esquire Brother Grant Kenworthy, Historian Brother Marvin Schuster

L to R, Brother Otto Hansen, Brother Les Gamblin, Brother Ira Haight, being installed by the O.O.R.P. Drill Team

THE DRAYTON VALLEY ENTERTAINERS

Submitted by Lil Ross (Director since the organization's first show)

The Drayton Valley Entertainers started partly from a group that got together to do a farewell show for Doctor McLure, a group that was called the Choralaires, partly from a group that was an offshoot from the Oil Wives Club and partly from the Oil Wives Talent Night Entertainment. Every year, from the Oil Wives Club's beginning in March of 1958, the Oil Wives have been putting on a show to celebrate their birthday. They put on skits, dances, comedy acts, dialogues, commercials and solo acts of all kinds. They were all amateurs, of course, and agreed only to perform in front of the women. The Choralaires were a much more rehearsed, choral group who strove to be more professional.

After our formation the 'Entertainers' put on: a 'Panhandler' type entertainment for the Klondike Kampers Karnival and helped celebrate The Voyageur Canoe Trip that paused at Drayton Valley on its way downriver. The famous Bobby Gimby and his trumpet was in town from Toronto to help in the celebration of the event.

The Drayton Valley Entertainers were (and are) made up entirely of women, ten to fifteen of us, and we did not try to gather in new members. As one or two members dropped out or moved away, we found one or two more, or else we adjusted the show to fit fewer numbers. Fifteen seemed to be about all we could handle comfortably in the type of show we put on.

For music we had everything from a piano or guitar, to a band, to taped back-up music. Most often we had the whole set-up from spotlights, microphones, tapes, backdrops, and glitzy costumes, but sometimes we went on stage with nothing but an M. C. and a mike.

Every year, beginning in about October, we planned a Christmas show and then one to entertain at Bonspiels. Very often we personalized shows – shows that were especially designed for that one occasion, such as: a farewell, an anniversary, a convention, a show for a special group like, The Lions, The Rotary, The Legion, The Rodeo or The Rebels Hockey Team.

Shows ranged in type from: Hillbilly to Mexican, Country to Latin American, Voyageur to Klondike, Roaring Twenties to Broadway to Mod. We did a Hootenany, Beatnik, Pig and Whistle Show, Hee Haw, Bowery Boys and Blackface Minstrel shows and we wore everything over the years from Rebel Hockey uniforms to cheerleader costumes, from gold lame' short skirts to satin gowns, from Hillbilly hats to Roaring Twenties fringe, from beads and boas to prospector beards, from army uniforms to Klondike dresses with parasols and from Granny Clampet to black and silver glitz.

We even had surprise men guests who did hilarious can cans and fashion shows. They wanted the whole 'schmear' too – from painted lips and toenails to curls and bare midriffs.

There were solos and dance routines, comedy acts, skits, dialogues, pantomimes and choreographed choruses. We put on a Toy Parade at Christmas time one year and The Carol Burlesque Show for the Bonspiels. The following year we put on a Christmas Around The World Show and then switched to a 'Twenties to Broadway Show' for the bonspiels through to spring.

Many of the Entertainers were memorable for a particular act. Pat Jenkins, who was in The Entertainers from the beginning, became famous for her 'Little Girl' acts that she entertained the troops in the war with, as well as her 'Second Hand Rose' routine. Betty McGee, also in The Entertainers at its beginning is remembered best for 'Hello Dolly' and 'I Wish I Was Eighteen Again.'

Lee Reisterer and Gil Hasenclever are remembered for their Louis Promo and Keely Smith routine as well as pantomimes like Ray Stephen's 'Ahab The Arab' (complete with camel and dancing harem girl). Jeannette Vatter, the bright spot on the stage, our costume designer and secretary-treasurer, performed most often in a dance line with Dot Woods, who jumped back and forth from the dance line to the piano, and Lil Ross who switched to her guitar. The choreography they arranged themselves like: 'Kung Fu Fighting,' The Indian Reservation, and Dueling Banjos. Sometimes they were joined

by Jeanette Miner, who acted as assistant director, assistant script-writer, key-boardist, or one-man-band, and Nancy Jacobs and Anne Marie Haack in their turn joined the dancers occasionally.

Gail McEachern was awesome with a'torch song like 'Big Spender,' and Sharon Meier for songs like 'One Day at a Time.' Irene Mussel belted out 'C'est Si Bon' or Birth of the Blues to the audience's delight or sang in a barbershop group. Who could forget Isabelle Cawthorne with her 'Jake The Peg' or Jackie Makarowski and Carol Stewart, in their turns, doing 'Tiny Tim' with the ukulele?

Lil Ross did her 'old man act' in 'The Passing Out Ceremony'and the Irish 'Ain't It A Beauty,' in untold number of shows. Fay Beauchamp was a scream as 'The Queen,' and Carol Lawrence, and Eunice Lyle could switch into any number of personna. Iris Tuftin joined us for a few shows with her solo talents but went on to other things.

Dot Woods is an amazing entertainer. She could play a song in any key, invent accompaniments, switch to the chorus line, then to the dance line and back to the piano without missing a beat and still manage a change of costume in the middle.

There are too many to list that have come and gone over the years from 1959 to the present time. New entertainers have been added in the last couple of years as 'The Beat Goes On.' The Drayton Valley Entertainers still do Christmas shows for the Seniors and some other organizations but we do not keep up the intense activity that we did back in the Sixties and Seventies. We still enjoy the show rehearsals, but everyone is so involved with so many other activities in this very busy town.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

By Winnie Hammerlindl

Drayton Valley Women's Institute was organized on October 17, 1954 with 24 charter members. We say we came in with the oil. The first meetings were held in the Anglican Church Parish Hall. The group had to bring in coal to heat the place and lights if the meeting was held at night. As the population of the village grew from 75 people to 2000 newcomers, many people needed help.

Rags were collected and sent away to make blankets. Quilts were made. The Branch is still making quilts and these are sent to Women's Emergency Centers.

They spearheaded an Emergency Relief Committee, which supplied clothing, food and household items. Since there were many accidents in the Oilfield, they lobbied for an ambulance.

As time went on, baby layettes were made for

1967 Klondike Kampers Karnival: L to R, Betty McGee, Eunice Lyle, Pat Jenkins, Doreen Wheat, Nancy Jacobs, Betty Donavon, Gail McEachern, Mary Poloway

Executive of first meeting of the Drayton Valley Women's Institute

newborns in the hospital. Two wheel chairs were purchased and lent, at no charge, to people who needed them. A Gestetner was bought and given to the Elementary School in the late fifties. A TV was bought for the Children's Ward at the hospital.

A nanny goat was purchased to supply goat's milk for a child who couldn't drink cow's milk. A Santa Claus suit was bought and rented out each Christmas. The branch started the first library in town in 1957, with Edith Deby as the librarian for many years.

Women's Institute flower show. L-R, Mrs. D. Rand, Mrs. V. Heyland. Mrs. Oscar in the background and Mrs. S. Johnson and Mr. Bob Wilson

Lunch was supplied for the ceremony when new-comers received their citizenships. In the late sixties, a great effort was made to have a Ladies' Restroom in town and we succeeded. For the 1967 Centennial Project, the local cemetery was cleaned up and trees planted.

Two Girls' Clubs were organized – The Easyford Club and the Drayton Valley Hummingbirds.

Girls' Club, Easyford, 1960, Inez Oscar in back row second from left, Margaret Nordley, leader, back left

Members volunteered to be the leaders.

The first Flower Show was organized by the Women's Institute. It lead to the formation of the Drayton Valley Agriculture Fair. Seminars and workshops were given on gardening, nutrition, public speaking, pornography, alcohol and drug abuse, Lady Beware film showing self-defense, and many more. These have now been taken over by Social Services.

Girls' Club Barbeque

Coming more up to date, our Perennial Plant Sale in the spring is a money maker and enjoyed by the public. We get the perennials from our own and our friend's gardens.

Over the years, we have given over 150 cookbooks as prizes to the top Home Economics students. We are now branching into prizes for sewing.

Safety and Safety Patrols are encouraged in the

schools, as well as Farm Safety. We work with the Pembina Crisis Centre and help out financially whenever needed. We have helped with the Government Mobile Unit for Breast Screening. Adelaine Hoodless roses have been planted around town.

Adeline Hoodless was the Founder of Women's Institutes.

October sees us hosting the Birthday Party for Seniors at the Shangri-la Lodge. Also in October, we set up a table to sell our produce, our baking and our crafts. All money goes to the Mother Organization, "Associated Country Women of the World". This is usually one hundred dollars or more.

Donations are made to many organizations such as Santa's Anonymous, Win House, Ronald McDonald House, University Research, Cancer and many others.

Women's Institute. Back Row: Doreen Gustafson, Betty Bark, Francis Edmunds, Bernice Chipchase,Winnie Hamerlindl, Ramona Rasmussen. Front Row: Mary Burrows, Cornelia Wood

The latest project is collecting pop can tabs, and we hope to collect 4 million, enough to buy a wheel chair – the chair to be loaned out whenever needed.

Handicrafts plays an important part in the activities of our members entering contests, locally and provincially. As well, creative writing contests are entered provincially. We sponsor the Christmas Handicraft Sale in town, once called the Christmas Fair.

As we are celebrating 100 years of Women's Institutes in Canada, we have members who say their mother and their grandmother were members. The aim of Women's Institutes is to service both home and country by working to create improved

Milda Berlinguette, Mother of the Year 1978, with Florence Romano

social conditions within the community, the province, across Canada and throughout the world.

The Institutes are non-political, non-sectarian and non-racial. Our motto is "For Home and Country".

Another activity of Women's Institute is to sponsor Girls Clubs. Two members who spent many years leading Girls Clubs were Florence Romano and Olga Brown. Girls Clubs are interested in learning about health, Home Economics, Handicraft, Public Speaking and citizenship; the same program as followed by Women's Institutes.

Drayton Valley Women's Institute 1977 , L to R, Olga Brown, Melody Sommers, Deana Bowen, Shirley Guyon, Frances Edmunds, Winnie Hammerlindl, Lil Wilheim, Gladys Seltenrich, Florence Romano, Edith Deby

CHAPTER SIX
Our Soldiers

A SOLDIER'S STORY
By Walter Russell Meston

When World War II began I decided to join the Air Force. When I went to enlist, I was told there was a four or five month waiting period to get in the Air Force. I then went down to the Army enlistment centre and got in right away that January 9, 1942 at Regina's XII District depot. A week later, I found myself on a troop train with hundreds of other fellows on the way to Ottawa for two months basic training. We were the first troops billeted under the grand stand at Landsdowne Park. I guess it was a good experience for most of us farm boys from the prairies who hadn't been very far from home and lonely for familiar faces. I suppose it was a time of getting used to being away from home and the West.

After my two months basic training was over quite a few of us were transferred to Camp Borden near Barrie, Ontario and seventy miles north of Toronto. I was posted to the D and M wing, (Drivers Maintenance) and began training to drive and maintain tanks. Adjoining the army camp was an Air Force training base also. We used to see the planes take off and land. That is when I wished most that I had waited the few months to join the Air Force.

After our four months advanced training was over, we were informed that we were going overseas. We were given an embarkation leave to go home. It consisted of a three day ride there, three day at home in Regina and then three days back again.

That was July 1942. When we got back to Camp Borden we had a couple of days there before we boarded a train to Halifax and on to a ship called the Letitra, to set sail for England. There were also other troop ships and destroyer escorts. The crossing was very calm, hardly any waves at all. We had a submarine scare about half way over and some of the destroyers dropped depth charges, but we never did hear what really happened. It was a bit scary in the middle of the ocean with no place to hide. We had a very uneventful crossing. We were packed in the ship like sardines, and slept in a hammock. Some of the men even slept on tables in the mess hall. Anyway I spent my twenty-second birthday in the harbour at Greenock, Scotland, which is not far from Glasgow.

After disembarking we boarded a train to travel to Southern England to a holding unit at Woking. People were very friendly. We were given a warm welcome at Greenock and at every stop along the way where there were always women waiting with tea and crumpets. We travelled by train from Scotland, down northern England, almost to the other end to the Number One Canadian Armored Corps Holding Unit in southern England, just outside the town of Woking, which was about a half hour by train from London. After a few days to get settled in, we were given nine days leave. A guy I knew from Coronach, Robert McNare, got his leave a day ahead of me, so we made arrangements to meet at a service club in London. We spent the leave together seeing the sites of London so to speak. There, we experienced our first air raid.

After a month or so at the Holding Unit at Woking, we were shipped out to VIII Canadian Recce Regiment (14th Hussars) who were stationed in Petworth Park. I was assigned to No. Eight Troop (the assault troop) and became a truck driver for hauling the troops before we went to France in 1944, where we were issued Armoured Half-Track vehicles instead of trucks.

After we arrived at the Regiment all the assault troops (there were three such troops for each squadron) had to take an intensive battle training course, which lasted about three months. It consisted of a lot of running up and down hills with full packs, carrying rifles, crawling through barbed wire entanglements with someone shooting over our heads and weapons training with grenades, anti-tank guns and such. This was topped off with a seventeen-mile cross-country run when we finished the course. Believe me, we were in awfully good physical shape by then.

During that time, Oscar, a buddy, had gotten the address and phone number of a girl (Paddy Todd) that his sister back in Saskatchewan was writing to as a pen pal. When Oscar and I went on leave together in March 1943, we were headed for Glasgow but he had a stop over of a few hours in London. Oscar suggested we call Paddy. We both had a good chat with her and made arrangements to meet her next day. We arrived a bit early and waited. Finally, not one but two girls came. Paddy Todd, and her girlfriend Olive Sweetland, who was, four years later, to become my wife. We had a good chat but as Olive had another date she left, and we went with Paddy for supper. It was love at first sight for me, as I could not get Olive Sweetland out of my mind. I did not imagine anything would come of it. She was from the big city of London and I was from the little town of Buffalo Gap in southern Saskatchewan, and a farm boy to boot.

Oscar and I didn't take Paddy and Olive out again until July 1943 when we were again on leave and made arrangements to meet them. Right from the start, we all got along very well. From then on we were a foursome and spent any time we were free together from then until we left for France, about a year later. Olive and I began writing to each other in-between visits and wrote very often. I sometimes wonder how we found anything to write about for as often as we wrote, but in those days I could always put my thoughts down on paper easier than I could in words. I was quite shy then where girls were concerned. Oscar was a few older than I was. I guess the twelve months from July 1943 to July 1944 when we went to France, had to be the happiest time we spent in the army. The four of us spent all the time we could together, our nine day leaves, weekend passes and occasionally we would sneak up to London on a Sunday without a pass, although we weren't supposed to be in London without a pass. We would catch the train to London and hurriedly catch the underground train up to the north end where the girls lived and where we very seldom saw the Military Police. We were lucky not to get caught. I had a very good Troop Sergeant and if I asked him, he would always mark me present on any parade we had on a Sunday (usually Church parades). Olive and Paddy used to come down to see us sometimes on weekends too, we would meet them in Hazelmere or Brighton or some such place.

In the spring of 1943, we were moved from Petworth Park to a clearing near Fernhurst, where we spent the summer in Bell tents, shaped like a wigwam. There were five or six guys to a tent with mattresses shaped like a triangle so you slept with heads to the outside and feet in the middle.

We played a lot of fastball for recreation and physical training. B Squadron, Eighth Recce had a real good team and won the Division Championships about three times. I believe it was May of 1944 that I injured my left knee quite badly when a big 200-pound guy slid shoulder first into it. I know now I should have got it fixed but we were expecting to go to France soon so my Troop Officer told me he'd keep me on excused duty if I just wanted to stay around. I suppose to some it would seem funny that a guy wouldn't want to delay going to the front line as long as possible, but after spending a couple of years with guys, quite a few became like brothers, and I didn't want to get separated from my Troop. I spent a month or so on excused duty and my knee eventually healed. I have sometimes thought that may have caused some of my knee problems now.

Eighth Recce also had a very good boxing club. Although I did not join the club, I used to spar a lot with a Punchy Marshall, as we used to call him. He eventually won the lightweight Canadian Army Championship in 1945 in Amsterdam, just after the war in Europe ended. In the fall of 1943 we were moved to Angmering on Sea, and were billeted in summer homes of well-to-do people who spent their summer vacations there. We stayed there till spring of 1944 and then we were moved to a little place in Devon, near the coast. Most of the Canadian Army were then in Devon in anticipation of a second front in France, which began with the D. Day invasion along the French coast. We did not take part in the D. Day invasion and about July 3rd or 4th were moved to East India Docks, a suburb of London, where we boarded an L.S.T. (Landing Ship Tank) and arrived in France on July 8, 1944. While waiting at East India Docks we were continually bombarded with V 1's and V 2's, which were very highly explosive self propelled bombs, which the Germans had recently invented. Believe me, we were glad to get away from there, and headed for France even though we did not know what to expect there.

We had waterproofed our vehicles in case we had to embark in six feet of water, but when we arrived at the French shore we were able to move right in close and drive off on dry ground. Even then, the battles had already been raging for a month by the time we got there. As the Allies had a small bridgehead, we could not use our vehicles for lack of room. We were sent into the trenches to relieve the Fusiliers de Moreal from Montreal. We went into the trenches at midnight under cover of darkness and under heavy artillery and mortar fire. The Fusiliers were a French Canadian Regiment. When

we relieved them, we didn't know they had a patrol out and they did tell us. We just got settled in, and feeling nervous when back comes this patrol. We asked for the password. Since they couldn't understand English, and we couldn't understand French our Troop Officer gave orders to open fire. Lucky for them that we were pretty nervous and that there was a slight depression they could lie in. Consequently the first person we wounded was one of our Canadians. He wasn't badly wounded and was happy about it, as at that time due to lack of space they sent all the wounded back to England. He was glad to get out of France as things were pretty hot there then. We spent ten days in the trenches, being almost continually under artillery and mortar fire. We were glad to get back behind the front lines for a few days rest. When we were out for a rest, Oscar came over for a chat. (He was with a different troop). I guess he must have had a premonition of getting killed because before he left to go back to his troop, he said to me "We'll never get out of this alive." A few days later we went back to the front and into the trenches for another ten days stint. On July 31, 1944, he was cut right in half by an artillery shell that exploded right on the edge of the slit trench he was in. It was a sad time for me and I had to write and tell Olive. She had the sad task of telling Paddy. I can imagine how tough it was for her, too.

The first month we were in France was very tough. The German army was a very well trained army then and by that time had a lot of battle experience, as they had been fighting in Russia and North Africa and Italy for two or three years.

I do feel we Canadians were well trained but had no battle experience. We had a lot to learn to start with. Most of the time we were badly outnumbered. Hitler had moved his toughest, most experienced troops into our front, as he was determined to drive us back into the English Channel. The first time we used our half tracks after we got to France was about August 19, when we were part of a big armoured drive to cut off the German army in what was called the Falaise Gap, a valley around the town of Falaise. This battle started off with very heavy shelling of the enemy by our air force and artillery. Then the armoured column moved up. I have never seen such a display of armoured vehicles before or since. The assault troops of the eighth Recce were the only eighth Recce troops to take part in this operation with our half-tracks hauling infantry. I happened to be assigned to haul troops of the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry. We started out about midnight under cover of darkness. All went well for an hour or so until a German anti-tank gun knocked out one of our tanks just ahead of us in an orchard. The burning tank lit up the whole place and they began picking off vehicles one by one, until one of our tanks got range on the gun and knocked it out, but not until after it had done considerable damage. We proceeded to our objective only to have the Royal Canadian Air Force drop a few bombs pretty near us by mistake. That didn't make it any less scary. A few Canadians were killed and quite a few were wounded. We got to our objective and dug in for the rest of the night. Next day, the eighth Recce drivers went back to our regiment. On the way back we stopped to check the knocked out Allied vehicles. One half-track had been hit right on the gas tank, which was right behind the cab, and it had become a ball of flame. The remains of all the infantry boys and driver were still there, just where they sat. It wasn't an Eighth Recce half-track, so it wasn't anyone I knew, but it didn't make it any less gruesome. On the way back we travelled on the road, the six half tracks from our troop one behind the other. An odd thing happened. The last one hit a mine, and blew off a front wheel. Luckily, the driver wasn't injured.

Due to this operation, the Germans had only one road out of the Falaise Valley. Our air force flew in and knocked out hundreds of vehicles. When we came along a few days later you couldn't drive on the road for knocked out vehicles. From then on we were used for reconnaissance duty for the rest of the war, which was what we were trained for, and were more comfortable doing. It was Eighth Recce's job to be the eyes and ears of the Second Canadian Division and to travel out front and contact the enemy. If we were too badly out-numbered we would call for help from the Infantry, Artillery or Air Force, depending what Division Headquarters thought of the situation. If it wasn't anymore than we could handle, we would drive the enemy back towards Germany, taking what prisoners we could, and gathering what information we could about enemy troop movements, enemy numbers etc., which we relayed by radio back to Division Headquarters.

Some days were good and some days were bad. We were continually losing men who were killed or wounded. It was always tough if you lost someone from your own troop, as most of us had been together a couple of years and had become like a big family. But I guess such is the tide of war. Being Recce we did liberate a lot of towns in France, Belgium and Holland. Those were always exciting and emotional times. After four years of German occupation, most of the people were very grateful at last to be free. They would dig out wine, cognac and calvados they had kept buried so the Germans wouldn't take

it. They would often cook up a meal and shower us with kisses. If the Germans had pulled out of the town, often the streets into town would be so crowded we could hardly drive in.

After the Battle of Falaise Gap, the Allies continued to make fairly good progress driving the German army ahead of us, back toward Germany. Of course there were many hard battles along the way where the Germans would dig in and make a stand. One time they pinned us down on a crossroad and began shelling us with artillery fire. We couldn't move so we got down under our half-tracks for protection. Bob Johnston (a friend from Balzac) was lying side by side under a half-track, when he got hit in the butt with shrapnel. I guess the good Lord was watching over us, all I got was a patch of skin torn off my knee from flying rocks and gravel. Bob was sent back to England, by plane, where he spent a month or so in hospital and convalescence. I'm not sure how long he was away before he returned to the Regiment. He was fully recovered and had not been real seriously wounded.

Another time I remember, we had traded some corned beef and hardtack to civilians for real potatoes and eggs, and were boiling up a batch for supper, when we got word that one of our other troops was in trouble and needed our help. We threw the food in my half-track and away we went. When we got near our destination, we came under heavy enemy fire. The half-track ahead of me, which was our radio vehicle with our Troop Officer and Radio Operator, got hit and caught fire. The Radio Operator was wounded. They baled out and got under cover. About that time they shot a hole through the engine of my half-track. We had to bale out and we headed across a patch of grass for protection to a brick house. Just as we got to the door, an artillery shell hit the house just above the door, showering us with bricks and what not. We rushed around behind to get of sight. The other half-track behind us, seeing what was happening, quickly reversed and got turned around. They picked us up and we went back to the Regiment. It was only a pocket of resistance but they were fairly well armed and had taken some of our other troop prisoners. As they were completely surrounded it was only a matter of waiting a couple of days for them to give up. Our other boys said the Germans made good use of the potatoes and eggs we had, and had a ball smoking our Canadian cigarettes, as their own were pure black and of very poor quality. We got most of our personal equipment back when we captured the Germans a couple of days later.

The Second Canadian Division travelled up the coast of France, Belgium and Holland, over-running and capturing many V-1 and V-2 flying bomb sights for which I'm sure the British in London were very grateful. For every one we put out of order many fewer bombs landed in London than would have otherwise. After the capture we were sent back to Antwerp for ten days rest, as we had been in the front line almost steady since the first part of July. It was a welcomed rest as the nerves were getting pretty fragile after so long up on the front.

After that we proceeded into Holland. Most farms in those countries had their barns and houses joined together so you could step out of the house and into the barn. Most had either thatch or slate roofs and many were constructed of brick.

One time when we were pinned down by artillery and mortar fire, we took shelter in a barn till the shelling ceased. Again, the good Lord must have been with us as exploding shells killed five or six cows and none of us were wounded. However, my half-track, which was sitting out front, had one track blown off. We left it there, till the mechanics could get it towed in and repaired.

With the coming of winter 1944, we went through Nymegan and onto a little abandoned town practically on the German border, where we spent the winter of 1944. We sent out patrols along the border and there was shelling back and forth. It was a very spooky place as it had been badly shelled. The doors and window shutters swayed in the wind, lots of cats and dogs were running around, that made it pretty scary when you were doing guard duty at night when it was pitch black.

Of course we laid mines out between us and the Germans. One night they sent out a patrol and set off one of our mines. Of course we were all alerted, but they must have turned back as we did not see anyone. However, next morning we found a boot with a foot in it. One of the Officers took it back to the Officers Mess Hall where they were eating breakfast. He took it in and set it on one of the tables. That was the end of breakfast for quite a few of them.

The Germans staged one more big battle before Christmas 1944 in the American section of the front. It was known as the Battle of the Bulge. They hoped to drive a wedge through the Allies Army and proceed back to Antwerp. Taken by surprise, the Yanks faltered for a few days, and the German army made fairly good progress, but they were running short of fuel by that stage of the war, and the Yanks recovered and drove them back taking quite a few prisoners.

One Christmas day, the Officers surprised us with a turkey dinner with all the trimmings and even a few drinks. They did all the serving and we sang a

few carols and enjoyed it very much. Things were quiet on our front that day. When spring came the Germans realized they were defeated and from then on it was a mass retreat into Germany with the Allies chasing them right to Berlin.

About that time we were told that who ever wanted, could apply for leave back to England, a few at a time. I applied for leave for about the middle of May, 1945, and wrote a letter to Olive, asking her to marry me at that time. I also wrote to Olive's father, asking for his daughter's hand. A while later, I got a letter back from both, saying Olive's folks would not consent to our getting married. As Olive was not yet twenty-one years old, the army would not give permission for us to get married without written consent from a guardian. I guess that was the lowest point in my moral at any time during the war, and was probably the only time I wasn't caring if I survived the war or not. I wrote back to Olive and told her we better call it quits. She wrote back and said she would not think of that and would come to Canada when she turned twenty-one, and we would be married then.

I got a leave back to England about the middle of May 1945. In the meantime, the war in Europe had ended with the complete surrender of all the German army. The last couple of weeks of the war were hectic, with the German army surrendering by the thousands, so many it was hard to deal with them all. They had to be disarmed and confined in areas where they had to be guarded. When I went back to England on leave in May, George Pepper who was from Tribune, Saskatchewan, the same town as Oscar Schjefte had come from, also got leave, so he went with me. We spent what time we could with Olive and Paddy, although Paddy and George did not hit it off too well. Olive and I became engaged during that leave in May, 1945. It would be February 10, 1947, before we did get married.

After the war ended, we spent our time in Europe guarding prisoners, playing ball, relaxing and mostly waiting for the time when we would be sent back to England and then back to Canada. We were in Oldenberg, Germany when the war ended. Then we were sent to Weiner, for awhile – it was on the Elbe River, and we used to go swimming in the river fairly often. From there we were sent to a place called Elberg, in Holland, right on the Zyder Zee and we used to go out with the boats once in awhile catching eels. Two boats would drag a net between them. There was a factory there that smoked eels, and our cook used to trade corned beef and other foodstuffs for smoked eels. They were quite good.

I got another leave back to England in August, and a friend of mine, Tom Johns, went with me. While on the boat going across the English Channel we heard the news that the Japanese had surrendered, after the dropping of the atomic bomb at Hiroshima. At last World War II was over.

We arrived back in London just in time for the End of War celebration. We had a very enjoyable leave and spent as much time as possible with Olive and Paddy, though they were working days, except on the weekends. Paddy and Tom got along really well and we had a wonderful time.

When we got back to Holland after our leave was over, we had orders to turn in our vehicles at Arnhelm Airport, where they were to be stored. There were thousands and thousands of vehicles there. Trucks, tanks, Bren gun carriers, half tracks, and I don't know how many more different kinds. We spent the rest of the summer playing ball, bathing in the Zyder Zee and just killing time.

Sometime in early September, 1945, some of us drivers, were called in and sent up to the vehicle compound, at Arnhelm Airport, where we had turned in our vehicles. There we were each given a big Mac truck with orders to proceed down through Holland to Belgium and to the Port of Ostende. We stayed there overnight and next day loaded the trucks on a fairly large ferryboat and sailed across the English Channel to East India Docks on the outskirts of London. We were met by a number of London Policemen on motorcycles, who escorted us through London. Then we drove down to the Ordnance depot at Borden where we left the trucks and were transported to Farnborough barracks where we were to wait for our regiment to arrive. This did not happen for nearly two months. A couple of days after we got back to England, we were all given nine day leaves so went up to London again, to spend what time we could with Olive and Paddy. Of course they were working week days but with the war over, everything was in a more joyous mood in London. Again we had a wonderful time. We just got back to camp from that leave when we were issued another pass for another nine days leave. With the war over they didn't have much for us to do so that was the way things went for nearly two months, until our regiment arrived back in England in November. Worst part was we didn't have a lot of money but as Olive and Paddy were working, they helped with the expenses. Some of the boys did get odd jobs once in awhile, to earn a few pennies, but with many English military personal being discharged, there wasn't much work available. Anyway, about the middle of November 1945, the VIII Recce Regiment arrived back at Farnborough camp and we prepared to sail back to

Canada, I wasn't too happy to have to leave Olive and come back to Canada but as we couldn't get married there wasn't much else I could do. Of course I did want to get home to Canada after nearly four years away.

The latter part of November, we went by train up to Liverpool where we got aboard the "Empress of Scotland" and sailed for Halifax. Just opposite to our trip overseas in July 1942, our voyage back was very rough with about ninety per cent of the guys getting seasick. As luck would have it, I was not one of the ninety per cent, which was a good thing as I was one of the guys assigned to kitchen duty and the heat and smell of food cooking only made it worse. I heard lots of guys say they wished they would die. Anyway after what seemed like ages, we arrived in Halifax and boarded a train bound for Swift Current, Saskatchewan which was the home depot of our regiment. We arrived in Swift Current the evening of the last days of November, 1945, where we were met by a large crowd including the Mayor and other dignitaries. We had a parade around with a marching band and ended up at a hall where we were served a banquet along of course with the usual speeches. Then we had a dance. I had sent a telegram while on the train to my folks to meet me at Champs Hotel in Regina the next day. When the dance was over I caught a train back to Regina, got a room for the rest of the night and met mother and dad there. We drove back home to Buffalo Gap and out to the farm.

While I was waiting in Regina on December 1, 1945, for the folks to arrive I went to the jewellers and bought Olive a Bulova watch with a black face for a Christmas present. Although it doesn't work anymore, I believe she still has it. We were given more than a months leave and didn't have to report back to 12th District depot in Regina until a week after New Years 1946. It was nice to be back with the family for Christmas. I hadn't saw that many goodies and so much food for many years.

I reported back to Regina on January 8, 1946, and was discharged from the Army January 9, 1946, four years to the day from when I had been sworn in. I had made application with the army for Olive to come to Canada when she became twenty-one years old. By then her folks had a change of heart, or I guess they knew she was coming to Canada anyway when she became of age, so her father paid for her passage.

Looking back on my four years in the Army, there were many wonderful times, and many very hard times. When in battle, a person has to do many things he wouldn't think of doing on Civy street. After spending years with a bunch of guys you almost become like family and of course you would do anything you could for them when they were in danger. And of course in the heat of battle, if its you or the other guy, you have to do some things just to survive.

WORLD WAR II CASUALTIES

FERDYNAND REICH
Trooper
M/100829
12th Armd. Regt., Three Rivers Regiment, R.C.A.C.
who died on
Monday, 26th June 1944

ASSISI WAR CEMETERY, Italy

The site was selected in September 1944, and burials were brought in to this cemetery from the surrounding battlefields. A high proportion of them date from June and July 1944, when the Germans were making, in this region, their first attempts to stop the Allied advance north of Rome.

DOUGLAS WALL
Guardsman
M/105407
21st Armd. Regt., Governor General's Foot Guards, R.C.A.C.
Who died on Saturday, 28th April 1945. Age 21.
Son of Walter Cecil and Madge Wall, of Rocky Rapids, Alberta.

HOLTEN CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY, Overijssel, Netherlands

Holten is a village 20 kilometres east of the town of Deventer, on the main road from Amsterdam to Bremen in Germany. In the cemetery the great majority of the burials are of Canadians who died during the last stages of the war in Holland and during the advance of the Canadian 2nd Corps into northern Germany and across the Ems in April and the first days of May 1945. After the end of hostilities their remains were brought together into this cemetery.

GEORGE HUGH CHERRINGTON
Corporal
M/8237
Calgary Highlanders, R.C.I.C.
who died on
Thursday, 8th February 1945. Age 19
Son of William Thomas Cherrington and Jean Cherrington; husband of Blanche Lavada Cherrington, of Moon Lake, Albert

GROESBEEK CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY, Gelderland, Netherlands.

Groesbeek is located 10 kilometres south east of the town of Nijmegen and close to the German frontier. Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery is 3 kilometres north of the village and 1.5 kilometre east of the main road to Nijmegen. Within the cemetery is the Groesbeek memorial, which commemorates by name those members of the Commonwealth land forces who died during the campaign in North-West Europe between the time of crossing the Seine at the end of August 1944, and the end of the war in Europe.

By far the greater number of the men buried in the cemetery were Canadians, and many of them lost their lives in the Battle of the Rhineland, when the 2nd and 3rd Canadian Infantry Divisions and the 4th Canadian Armoured Division took part in the drive southwards from Nijmegen to clear the territory between the Maas and the Rhine, in February and March 1945. Canadian casualties from 8th February to 10th March of that year totalled 5,304. Others, buried here, died earlier or later in the southern part of Holland and in the Rhineland. There are 2610, 1939-1945 Commonwealth war casualties commemorated here, of these 20 are unidentified. Within the cemetery stands the Groesbeek memorial which commemorates those who died in the final stages of the war in Europe, and have no known grave.

ALVIN JOHN SIEBLS
Private
M/104846
Seaforth Highlanders of Canada
Who died onTuesday, 23rd May 1944.

CASSINO WAR CEMETERY, ITALY

Cassino War Cemetery lies in the Commune of Cassino, Province of Frosinone, 139 kilometres south-east of Rome. Within the cemetery is situated the Cassino Memorial, commemorating over 4,000 men with no known grave, representing nearly one-tenth of over 49,000 members of the Commonwealth forces who died in the fighting in Italy.

The site was originally selected for a war cemetery in January 1944, but the development of the battle during the first five months of that year made it impossible to use it until after the Germans had withdrawn from Cassino. During these early months of 1944, Cassino saw some of the fiercest fighting of the Italian campaign, the town itself and the dominating Monastery Hill proving the most stubborn obstacles encountered in the advance towards Rome. The greater part of the soldiers buried in the war cemetery lost their lives in the battles during these months. There are 4266, 1939-45 Commonwealth war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, 284 are unidentified. 2 Special memorials have been erected to men who were originally buried in other cemeteries in the vicinity but whose graves have been lost.

KENNETH FRANK DURHAM
Private
M/107428
Canadian Scottish Regiment, R.C.I.C.
Who died on Friday, June 9, 1944. Age 21
Son of Walter and Marjorie Durham, of Violet Grove, Alberta

BRETTEVILLE-SUR-LAIZE CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY, Calvados, France.

This cemetery lies on the main road from Caen to Falaise. The village of Bretteville lies 3 kilometers from the cemetery Buried here are those who died during the later stages of the battle of Normandy, the capture of Caen and the thrust southwards to close the Falaise Gap and seal off the German division fighting to escape being trapped west of the Seine. Almost every unit of Canadian 2nd Corps is represented in the Cemetery. There are 2957, 1939-45 Commonwealth war casualties commemorated at this site. Of these 87 are unidentified.

JOSEPH SHKROBOT
Private
M/106868
Loyal Edmonton Regiment, R.C.I.C.
Who died on Saturday, October 21, 1944. Age 23
Son of Chariton and Anna Shkrobot

CASSINO MEMORIAL, Italy

The Cassino Memorial is situated within Cassino War Cemetery. This is the same cemetery that Neil Andrew Cameron is buried in. Joseph is commemorated on Panel 15 of the memorial. On the walls above the stairways the following words are inscribed: WITHIN THIS CEMETERY STAND MONUMENTS WHICH BEAR THE NAMES OF SOLDIERS OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH AND EMPIRE WHO FELL IN THE ASSAULTS UPON THE SHORES OF SICILY AND ITALY OR IN LATER BATTLE TO FREE ITALIAN SOIL AND TO WHOM THE FORTUNE OF WAR DENIED A KNOWN AND HONOURED GRAVE. AROUND THEM ARE THE GRAVES OF THEIR COMRADES WHO DIED FIGHTING IN THESE PARTS TO OPEN THE WAY TO ROME AND THE NORTH.

NEIL ANDREW CAMERON
Private
M/106715
Perth Regiment. R.CI.C
Son of Fred F. and Florence M. Cameron, of
Rocky Rapids, Alberta

CASSINO WAR CEMETERY, Italy

Cassino War Cemetery lies in the Commune of Cassino, Province of Frosinone, 139 kilometers south-east of Rome. It is situated in the valley of the river Liri immediately below the southern spurs of the central Apennines. Above it at a distance of one kilometer is the domination hill on which stands the Abbey of Monte Cassino.

MELVILLE PHILLIP HENRY MILLER
Private
K/2535
Canadian Scottish Regiment, R.C.I.C.
who died on
Saturday 7 October 1944
Son of Joseph and Ester Miller

ADEGEM CANADIAN WAR CEMETERY, Maldegem, OostVlaanderen, Belgium

The Adegem Canadian War Cemetery is located midway between Brugge and Gent. In the last week of the September 1944, the Allies held the city of Antwerp, but the Germans held both shores of the Scheldt estuary, so that the port of Antwerp could not be used. The task of clearing the southe shore of the estuary was allotted to the 3rd Canadian Division, aided by the 4th Canadian Armoured Division and the 52nd Division. Their operation lasted from October until the beginning of November 1944; by the 3rd of November the Germans had been cleared from the north west corner of Belgium and the south shore of the Scheldt was free. There had been fierce fighting for two weeks for the crossing of the Leopold Canal. The majority of the men buried at Adegem died during the operations for the clearance of the south bank of the Scheldt; but many Canadians who lost their lives elsewhere in Belgium were also brought here for burial.

The above information was provided courtesy of the War Graves Commission

CHAPTER SEVEN
Family Histories

A MOVING STORY

Submitted by Margaret (Beckett) Hutchinson

I first came to live in the Drayton Valley area with my parents, Vern and Ellen Beckett, when I was just a baby. We moved into a house, in Violet Grove, called the Burnett place. We lived there for the winter and then moved in to live with my Grandfather, Bill Beckett, for awhile. Shortly after, a house became available for rent in downtown Drayton Valley so we moved there. My parents rented the house from Ted Starling for $6.00 a month and they paid the rent at the nearby post office. This house was located somewhere along 50th street approximately where the Saan Store is located now.

Dad got a job hauling lumber from west of Drayton Valley. Later he got a job driving truck in Viking, AB., so we moved there for almost three years. Then the oil boom started in Drayton Valley. We moved back to be with my grandfather again. During this time my sister Verna was welcomed into our little family.

Dad, Mom and Grandad built us a two roomed house on Grandad's land, three miles south of Drayton Valley. Dad soon got a job with Leduc Construction, building roads and oilfield leases in the area and outside areas as well. Because Dad was working away, and in order for the family to be together, my parents built another house, but this one was built on skids so it could be moved on the big truck. The nomadic way of life was to begin. Mom would pack all our belongings into boxes. Then she and Dad would turn the table and chairs upside down on the floor, and the big truck would come and winch our home onto it's deck and we'd be on our way.

Our first move took us to what was then called Stanolind D Hill between Lodgepole and Cynthia. My aunt and uncle, Dave and Elsie Arndt, also moved out there so Verna and I had someone to play with.

In the fall of 1956 our skidshack was again loaded onto the big truck and moved closer to Cynthia where the one Esso Gas Plant is today. Again, we still had cousins and friends to play with in this camp and I also had my first experience with a bear. Although, when I think of it, I know the bear probably never even saw me but I will never forget him. After spending the winter in this camp, again we moved on. This time we moved to the Gateway Trailer Park in Whitecourt, AB. We only stayed there until the roads were passable enough to move our shack into Leduc's camp along the Oldman River at Windfall.

During our time in this camp I became of age that I was to go to school so the family moved back to Violet Grove. We lived in a house owned by my Grandma Landers. In September I started school in Violet Grove. My first school teacher was also my aunt, Mrs. Grace Landers.

While we were living in Granny's house the truck driver for Leduc Construction moved our skidshack back into the town of Whitecourt. During this time my sister Janet joined our moving family, and yes, we moved back to our skidshack in Whitecourt. I finished grade one and started grade two in Whitecourt Central school, a school that is still operating in Whitecourt. Again Dad's job moved us and our home back to Drayton Valley, back to Grandad Beckett's farm where we attached our skidshack to our other two roomed house and now we had a kitchen, a living room and two bedrooms. I started back to school in Violet Grove until I finished Grade Three. I was then bussed to Drayton Valley to the school that is now Eldorado School. I continued going to school there until halfway through grade five when Dad's work put us on the move again.

During this time, my sister Gladys joined our family. Mom and Dad went and bought us a 8'x28' house trailer and built a 10'x12' porch that was attached to the trailer each time we moved and was actually a bedroom for us girls. The first move we made in this new home was back to Lodgepole, AB., then on to Cynthia, AB. I finished my schooling at

Lodgepole School until partway through Grade Seven when the moving bug hit us again. However, while we were in Cynthia, Mom and Dad bought a bigger mobile home (maybe because we had-a longer move to make or maybe because our family was getting bigger). This time our castle was a 10'x 42' mobile home and it even had double bunk beds for us girls to sleep in.

In 1963, the oil boomed in Slave Lake, AB and we moved there. While we were in Slave Lake, my brother Cliff was born in 1964. Finally we girls had a little brother. We lived in Slave Lake until I was halfway through grade nine when we were on the move again.

This time our destination was Breton, AB. Leduc Const. upgraded the road from Alsike to Breton, and Dad again operated a caterpillar on this job. I finished grade nine in Breton and because my next year of schooling was high school, my parent's decided the moving days would have to come to an end. Before leaving Breton, my parent's bought a brand new 12'x60' house trailer. This place was heaven! The girls now had separate bedrooms and, as each of us was getting older, we needed more of our own space.

In August of 1966, we moved our new home back to Drayton Valley into the Western Trailer court which is now the Derrick Mall parking lot, started Grade Ten at-Frank Maddock High School which is now the Junior High School.. Then, in December of 1966, my youngest brother Fred was welcomed into our family and in the spring of 1967, we moved again. This time we moved 3 miles south of Drayton Valley up the same road but across the road from my Grandad Beckett's place. This was a homestead quarter and the family was happy to finally be able to put down roots. Although Dad was farming, he still had to work for a pay cheque because farming was then just a hobby and couldn't raise a family of six kids.

In November of 1967, Grandad Beckett passed away and I thought I had lost my best friend. Grandad had always been very close to us kids as we were growing up. He was a very special person not only to his family but also to the friends in the community. Seems like everyone knew Bill (Willie) Beckett.

In December of 1967, I met Raymond Hutchinson from the Easyford area. Raymond could not replace my feelings for my grandfather but he did become my best friend. In October of 1968, I married my best friend in the Church of God in Drayton Valley. Our first home was a two room shack that we rented from my Grandmother Margaret Allen in Violet Grove. We paid $30.00 a month rent, went out side to the biffy and carried our drinking water from Uncle Maynard & Aunt Joe Allen's place by the pail full. But we were happy and while we lived there our first child was born in the old Drayton Valley Hospital. Richard was born in 1969. Later that year, Raymond got a job with Cenalta Service Rigs, and we moved into a furnished apartment suite in Red Deer, AB. This apartment cost us $140.00 a month, but we had an inside bathroom with a tub and a chance-to make new friends. While we lived there, I came home to stay awhile with Mom & Dad because in 1970 our daughter, Shelley, was born in the Drayton Valley Hospital. We lived in Red Deer almost a year then came back to Drayton Valley and rented a house on 49th street. We lived there almost two years then bought a second hand 10'x42' house trailer and moved it out onto my parent's place. Later, we moved it a mile south onto Schmidt's place. During this time Raymond started working for Pembina Oil Separators. Raymond was also a baseball player for the Easyford Colts and one day we returned from a ballgame to find that during the day a black bear had visited our home. That was enough to put me on the move again.

This time, my Dad and Raymond cleared out an acre of land on Dad's quarter across the road from Pembina Oil Separators Plant and we moved up there. We had power, telephone, an outside biffy again and hauled water from Mom and Dad's in a galvanized 15 gallon barrel in the trunk of the car but we had NO BEARS. Shortly after we moved here our youngest son, Robert, was born in 1974.

In 1975, we sold our small house trailer and bought a brand new 1975, 14'x75' house trailer and moved it onto a site at P.O.S . We lived here for three years. Then Raymond got a job with Flint Engineering and we moved into Country Style Trailer Court west of Drayton Valley. One day, while working out in the Cynthia area on a Texaco well, Raymond was asked by a Texaco employee to put in his application for a battery operator's job. Raymond did and in December of 1977, he started working for Texaco.

In September of 1978, we sold our trailer and moved into a house in Cynthia. Many memories were made here during the next nine years. Because we seemed to be constantly on the road taking the children and ourselves into Drayton Valley for sports, supplies, etc. we decided to buy a house in town. We bought our house and we lived there for another seven years at 5024 46th St.

Then in August of 1992, Esso Petroleum had bought out Texaco and Raymond turned the big 50 all in the same 2 year period and was given early

retirement. We both knew that we were going to have to make some more changes in our lives so we formed our own company named Oakie's Holdings and Ray went contract battery operating for other companies. We sold our house and bought a 14'x68' house trailer in Greenwood Trailer Court. Since all our children were on their own by now and I had just recently been diagnosed having multiple sclerosis, the trailer was just the right size.

Soon after moving into the trailer Raymond got a job contract battery operating for Anderson Oil and Gas. However, he would be working in the Yukon. We talked this over and we decided he'd only be gone for 15 days of the month and home for 13 days so we could handle that. In October of 1999, Raymond will have completed 6 years working in the Yukon. During the last six years we have bought a quarter of land 5 miles north of Drayton Valley. Originally this quarter belonged to Ralph Wikander and when we bought the land, Ralph still lived on a 10 acre portion of the quarter. In August of 1998, our oldest son and his wife bought the 10 acres from Ralph. Our youngest son Robert also has his house trailer on the quarter.

Our three children were all born and raised and still live and have jobs in the Drayton Valley area.

Richard married Shannon Ross and he works for Paradise Trucking and Shannon works in the bakery at the IGA. Shelley married Shawn Johannasson and she works in Long Term Care at the Drayton Valley Hospital. Shawn was killed November 3, 2000 in an industrial accident. Robert works for Commercial Bearing here in Drayton Valley and at time of this writing he is single although I have been told the sound of wedding bells are in the future.

Raymond played baseball for many years with the Easyford Colts and the D.V. Tigers mainly as the pitcher. Raymond and I also bowled for 17 years with the Easyford Bowling League. We also spent hours volunteering our time helping with the youth bowling and minor baseball while our children were involved. I have served on the executive of the local T.O.P.S. club for the last 5 years

This moving story that you have just read reveals my moving childhood and continues into my repetition of moving in my married life but you will also notice it always ends up coming HOME to Drayton Valley.

MAYNARD ALLEN

In November or '42, Maynard, Joe, Eunice, Lee and Dona arrived in Drayton Valley. We stayed with Scotty White and Minnie Chalmers for the first week or so. Minnie greeted us with open arms and had fresh homemade bread and jam, which we enjoyed very much. We moved into a house across the road east of Scotty's place and spent the winter and part of the next summer there. Our first Christmas in Drayton Valley was with Scotty, Minnie, and Betty. I can remember Betty White and I had to take turns cranking the old ice-cream maker, which seemed to take hours, but in the end it was worth it. Minnie made the best homemade ice cream I have ever tasted.

In the late summer of 1943 we moved to live at Pete Gregorsen's place. Both Pete and Dad were working in Stordasvahl's lumber camp. Mom also cooked in the camp for some time.

In 1943, I started school at Violet Grove. I would catch a ride with Uncle Bob Lander's family or with Jimmy Beckett. We had about three and one half or four miles to walk. If it wasn't that far it seemed like that much or more.

In 1944 or 1945 we moved to the farm which is now known as the Hine's farm. Dad would farm during the summer and work out during the winter.

How many of you remember the family get togethers we had picking saskatoons on Brownbill Flats, the trips to get some blueberries out by the Pembina River and being caught in a storm and having to stay in Clint Vickery's hay loft overnight? Remember the annual picnics that were held at Danny McDonald's place on the banks of the Pembina River? This was the highlight of Danny's summer.

One of my fondest memories was the birthday dinner Jimmy Trackwell cooked every summer and invited all the girls from the community for roast chicken. We soon learned it wasn't chicken. It was rabbit, but it was delicious anyway. This was his way of celebrating his own birthday.

In 1950 to 1951 Dad and Mr. Hines made some agreement about the farm and store in Violet Grove which Mr. Hines owned at that time. They moved to our farm and we moved to the store which was originally built and owned by Ernest and Violet Forsyth. I think. Mr. Forsyth was the first teacher in Violet Grove.

Lanny was two years old when we moved into the store. Allen's General Store was in operation for several years. Faith, born in 1957 can remember when the students riding the school bus would come and wait with her for the bus.

In the summer of 1965, Mom and Dad closed the store, and bought a trailer. Dad continued to work out at various construction jobs until ill health forced him to retire.

After Dad passed away Mom continued to live in the trailer until the time came when she needed constant help. We then moved her to the Lodge in

Drayton Valley. She resided there until she passed away in June of 2000.

Before closing I have to say that as long as I can remember, Mom was always helping someone out in one way or another, and Dad always provided well for his family. And if someone needed the shirt off his back, he would give it to them whether he had a replacement for it or not.

BEN AND DORA ANDERSON

Written by Dora Anderson

Ben and Dora, two sons Carl and Nelson and daughter Dorothy, left from the farm at Elnora when Ben started to work on the oil rigs. We followed the oil rigs to Devon then to Calmar and we arrived in Drayton Valley in 1956. By then Ben was a battery operator. Nelson and Dorothy went to school in Drayton. Carl finished high school and went to work on the oil rigs. We lived in Drayton for seven years. By then the kids had left home. Since Ben and I had always wanted a farm, we took up a homestead in Buck Creek and moved there in 1963. Ben worked for Great Plains and also farmed at the same time. In 1980, due to ill health, we sold the farm and retired in Drayton Valley. Ben died in 1988. I joined the hospital Auxiliary and have been a volunteer for 14 years and feel that I am still doing something worth while.

Ben and Dora Anderson's homestead near Buck Creek 1963

Ben and Dora Anderson

GORDON AND HELEN (BROWN) ANDERSON

Gordon and I were married October 26, 1953. Gordon was a surveyor for Independent Exploration Co. The company moved to Drayton Valley in December, 1953. We lived with my Uncle Lawrence Brown at Rocky Rapids since there were no places to rent with all the oil companies in the area. In the spring, we moved to Rocky Mountain House and then to many more towns in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Then in 1956, we moved back to Drayton Valley. Gordon was now employed by British American Oil – later Gulf Oil. From Drayton Valley we were transferred to Westerose Plant, then to Gulf Rimbey Plant in 1960. Gordon worked for Gulf Oil for 32 years.

We have three children. Helen married Wayne Mueller and they live in Airdrie, Alberta. They have two children, Nicole and Ryan. Deb married Clark Bianchini. They live in Edmonton and have two children, Angie and Clark. Our son Doug lives and works in Northern Alberta. The kids took their schooling in Rimbey. I worked at the Rimbey Health Care Centre for 30 years. Gordon retired in 1990, and I retired in 1993. Rimbey is our home.

PETE & ANNA ANDERSON

In 1915, Pete and Anna Anderson (nee Edholm) came by boat from Sweden, and arrived in the Drayton Valley area with their children – Carl, Martha and Helen and took homestead on the NE 16-49-7 W5.

The family farmed. Pete also worked in Tie and Lumber camps in the winter to support the family. In 1935, Carl married Rachel Sjerdal and in 1937 their first son, Albert, was born. In 1939 their second son, Arnold, was born. Albert and Arnold received their education in Drayton Valley and attended Sunday school and Church at the Anglican Church which now stands at the Historical Museum.

Albert left school in 1952 and worked in a lumber camp west of Water Valley, Alberta until the spring of 1953. Albert and Alice Combs (daughter of Floyd and Mary Combs) were married on July 16, 1955 and have 2 daughters; Wanda was born in 1959 and Lola was born in 1969. Wanda has two children: Leonard was born in 1979 and Angela was born in 1982. Lola has two boys: Chad was born in

1988 and Dustin was born in 1991. On August 26, 1989 Wanda and Barry McQueen were married. On May 16, 1987 Lola and Warren McGhie were married. Albert and Alice started Anderson Sand and Gravel in 1971 and still have it to this day. Albert and Alice were blessed with a great-grandson, Dezmond Albert, on March 29, 1998. Dezmond is the son of Leonard and Stephanie (Henderson).

Albert and Alice also had another son born in 1955 but, due to an accident, he passed away in 1958. They also had another child, Verna who died in infancy in 1957.

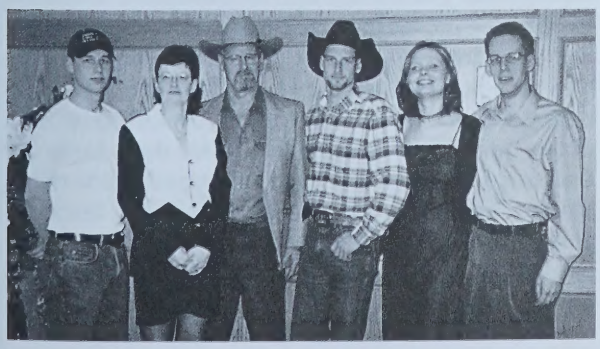
In 1962, Arnold married Eileen Schram. Arnold has his own gravel truck. Arnold and Eileen have 2 children: Julie was born in 1964 and Todd was born in 1971. Julie also has two children: Stephanie was born in 1990 and Mackenzie was born in 1992. Todd has one son, Lucas, who was born in 1993. They had a daughter, Tracey, born in 1963 but passed away in 1973.

Peter Anderson passed away on August 8, 1964. Anna Anderson passed away on March 14, 1965.

Rachel passed away in 1982 at the age of 63. In 1996, Carl passed away at the age of 90.

CECIL AND COLLEEN ANDERSEN

Cecil Andersen was born in Mannville, Alberta, on June 1, 1949 to Svend Aage (Slim) and Effie Irene Harrison Thomson Andersen. He was the third son born to this family from the Streamstown area near Kitscoty and Marwayne. Cecil's grandfather, Edwin Thomsen had immigrated from England to the area prior to the Barr Colonists arriving. Cecil's father's family had immigrated from Denmark to the Redcliff area in southern Alberta. Cecil grew up with the freedoms living on the farm brought, but also with the work that went with it. Having three brothers and a little sister made for there never being a dull moment, something was always happening. The children grew up with a strong work ethic and also a commitment to the community they lived in.



Barton, Colleen, Cecil, Ryan Andersen, Sylwia Ciezar and Patrick Andersen

Colleen Beckett was born in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton to Lylle and Rachel Beckett on January 7, 1954. She was the third child and second daughter. It was a cold and miserable night the night she was born and it was a good thing that Rachel had gone into Edmonton to stay with cousins. Colleen was the tomboy of the family. Her sister Donna was Rachel's help in the house so Colleen was free to help her Dad with the good outside stuff. Cleaning the barn, collecting eggs, bringing in the cows to milk when she was small. While still not very big she drove tractor for the threshing crew. She would wend her way through the fields for the men to pitch the bundles on. Each time she had to stop she had to jump down on the clutch with both feet and stand on it until it was time to move on. When it was loaded she put it in a higher gear and headed for the threshing machine. She would stop and one of the men would come and take it to drive it up to the machine. If the bin was getting full she would have to crawl in it and keep the grain pushed back from the spout so that as much grain as possible could be put in the grainery. When it was full you had to crawl out the hole in the very peak of the grainary so that is why only little people got that job. Lylle and Rachel farmed the quarter of land that Aspenview and the two schools sit on. Many a summer was spent picking roots and rocks when the land was brushed and broke. One year we had a brush pile in the field not far from the house that turned into a ground fire. It took us a long time to get it out and in the end we had a slough. Many were the frogs caught and rafts made and wet kids showing up at the house from falling off and in. In the winter it froze up and we shovelled it off and skated. It wasn't always the smoothest but it worked.

Summers where always busy with haying. It always seemed to be raining when we where supposed to be haying. It was a great day when Truman Fry bought a square bale and came over and baled the hay. Dad, Larry, Randy and I would spend hours bringing these bales in and stacking them. One of the greatest adventures was in the spring when we drove the cows over to Grandad Beckett's across the steep coulee straight south of where the derricks stand. We had a big mare we called Candy and I think I rode her for ever. Dad brought her home from an auction sale and I think she was only green broke but in the end I think we ended up breaking each other in. In the winter we tied the lariat rope to the toboggan and she pulled it through the snow. With the river being so close it was fun in the summer to ride her down and "bath" her. I rode her over to Barbara Law's house with baking. Barbara was

blind and Mom would make cookies, etc. and I would ride over with them for her and take messages, etc as we had no phone in those days.

We had to walk to school as we lived out of town and the school board said that we lived too close to the school so were not allowed to take the bus that went right by the driveway. It kept us all slim and it was only up hill one way. I think we got a ride once. We all had bikes and rode them when we could. Many is the time we plugged up the wheels with mud riding home as it had rained during the day.

Every Saturday was grocery day. We delivered cream and eggs in town to regular customers and we got our allowance. Money was also made picking bottles in the ditches and taking them up to Junky Joe's to sell. Unless there was serious haying to be done on Sunday the day would be spent at Seba Beach or bare bum beach swimming followed by a weiner roast on the way home.

I met Cecil one summer while staying with cousins in Lloydminster. We were married on October 20, 1973. At the time Cecil was farming with his father and two of his brothers. He had recently returned from working as a drillers helper in the gold mine at Yellowknife. He had shovelled coal into the coking ovens in the Crowsnest Pass as well as driving truck and he had also worked as a brick layer when the Misericordia Hospital was built. Deciding that none of this was for him he had returned to the family farm.

Ryan and Little Red up on the Ram River

Of course being a large farm it was always busy. My mother in law and sister in law and I took turns taking meals out to the field for the men in the fall and it was always a little stressful when you got the call that the neighbors where finished combining and had pulled into the field to help. The number of meals doubled and there was no such a thing as a microwave in those days. At silage time I helped in the field so Gramma babysat and cooked. At the time the farm consisted of a hog operation that Cecils two brothers looked after, cattle which were Cecil's responsibility, and a grain farm that everyone contributed to.

Patrick was born in 1975 in Lloydminster. Ryan was born in 1978 in Vermilion.

Not long after Ryan was born and with the expansion of the cattle herd it was decided that the Marwayne area was not the ideal country for cattle and the decision was made for us to move. Land in B.C. and northern Alberta has looked at. We were in Drayton visiting with my parents on our way back from a land scouting trip. It happened to be a Wednesday so Cecil went up to the auction mart. There he ran into Lorne Schmidt who mentioned his parents were looking to sell their place.

Cutting hay for the silage operation on the Andersen Ranch

In March of 1981 we loaded up the household into a stock trailer and with the kids' fish in a five gallon pail, and the cat under the seat of the Explorer we headed west. I was not totally in favour of this plan. I told Cecil that it rained a lot here. He told me that you needed rain to grow grass for cows. I said to him, "You don't understand, it RAINS here". In July of 1982 we received a great deal of rain and the creek by the house flooded. In 1986 it rained, the road washed out, the creek flooded, the phone line had left with the road, the kids were evacuated to my parents and we stayed home to try to keep the basement pumped out. Nels Erickson walked down from the top of the river hill to see that we were alright. I told Cecil then, "See, it RAINS here".

Barton was born on rodeo weekend in 1982 in Drayton Valley and completed our family. From a very young age our boys helped out on the farm,

sometimes to the neighbours consternation. Patrick wasn't a keen farmer so turned into the cook when Mom had to be in the field. Colleen went to work in the dietary department at the hospital when Bart was 3 so he spent a lot of time with his dad. Many afternoon naps were taken on the floor of the pickup. Bart would go stay with Gramma B or Auntie Doreen if Cecil was doing something that he couldn't take Bart along with him. Cecil wasn't too sure Bart should go to kindergarten as he was very used to having him around and missed the company.

As the boys grew up Colleen and Cecil were very involved in their activities. Cecil spent more than a few nights at the ski hill making snow and Colleen coordinated the hot lunch programs in the schools the boys were in for 13 years. The boys all attended school in Drayton Valley and Colleen was very involved with the schools, serving on parent council, helping in the classroom and on field trips. The boys were involved with ball, Beavers and soccer at various times but found most of their entertainment on the farm. The boys skiied and we made a many trips to Marmot Basin in Jasper, leaving at 4:00 in the morning so they could be first on the hill. There were times when there were cousins along for the trip. Of course, when the boys got older and had drivers licenses they borrowed Grampa's van and packed as many bodies in as they could, strapped the snowboards on the roof and were off to Jasper or Banff. Boys being boys, and having all male cousins except for one there were some harrowing escapades at times. One winter they took the tractor and put a couple of large round bales together, piled snow at either end and with one guy on a snowboard and the other running the skidoo that pulled him they "jumped" the bales. The female cousin, Janine was right in there with them on their adventures and often provided "good ideas" to help the adventure along. Camping was a fun summer time activity and the mountains a favorite destination.

Cattle were always the main operation of the farm and the most cows we ever calved were probably around 475. The farm evolved into a backgrounding operation for calves and some years there were 600 calves in the lot. That took a lot of feed and the boys always worked very hard to help make the farm a go and always were willing to go with their Dad to help out a neighbor. Farming wasn't easy and reliable help was very scarce so the family worked together with Cliff and Audrey Whitelock and more recently Darwayne and Linda Claypool to help each other get the work done. Whether it was working with the cows, haying, or silaging there was always a co-ordinated effort to get it all done. Ryan is the farmer of the boys and still works with his Dad today. The day in January 1997 when Colleen had a heart attack, Ryan took over the feeding of the cows and the heifers had started to calve. It all became his responsibility at the ripe old age of 18 and he did very well until Colleen was well and things were back to normal. Pat is in Calgary and is in University taking sciences. He is marrying Sylwia Ciezar in July of 2004. Bart enjoyed mechanics in High School and is presently at Martin Farm Equipment apprenticing for Ag Service Technician. He tries to keep his Dad's tractors in the field and the rest of the equipment in shape.

Cecil has always been involved in the community serving on many community groups. Pembina Grazing Reserve, Pembina Agricultural Protection Association, REA, Great West Feeders, Warburg Seed Cleaning Co-op and Rocky Mountian Elk Foundation to name a few.

Cecil has always liked to hunt and was part of the reason for our move. Lanny Schultz and Cecil have been hunting partners for too many years to count and have been around the province as well as up north in their hunting travels. Ryan took up hunting with his Dad and his first big game being a tro-

Fred Berezowski's tractor with front end in a sink hole 1951

Cecil Andersen's silage outfit in the same hole on the Berezowski place in 1989

phy Big Horn Sheep at the age of 14. He had broken his ankle quite badly just two weeks before antelope season opened but his Dad packed him off to southern Alberta and he took his first antelope while still on crutches. Cecil and Ryan run Buck Creek Outfitters. During the hunting season they have American hunters up to hunt whitetails, the odd moose and lately have gotten into cougar hunting. Cecil's brother Lyle lives at Warburg and has become one of the hunting partners for Ryan and Cecil.

Colleen's family is all in the Drayton Valley area so there are always get together's for birthdays. Cecil's brother Lyle is at Warburg so we see him fairly often. The Cattle business isn't so good today but being typical farmers we are still calving cows and buying calves for the feedlot. Life goes on and who knows what the future brings.

BILL AND OLIVE APPEL

By Art Appel

The family of Bill and Olive Appel moved to Violet Grove from Vancouver in the spring of 1936. That same year, he built a general store, along with living quarters. We lived here until 1945, when he sold the business with the building. During his years in business, some times it was hard to have all the supplies one needed. Delivery was made once a week, by truck, by the Jensen Brothers. In the spring, due to road conditions, road bans were in place, which made it even harder.

Olive Appel in the doorway of the store at Violet Grove

The children of Bill and Olive consisted of Arthur, born 1930, Bill 1941, Walter 1943, Coral 1950. Bill and Walter were born in Edmonton at the time Bill and Olive lived in Violet Grove. Arthur was the only one to go to school in Violet Grove.

Bill Appel Sr. passed away November 1995. Bill Appel Jr. passed away November 1991. Olive is doing well at age 89, living at Strathcona Place.

Arthur is retired and living in Edmonton. Walter is in Lindsay, Ontario, still working. Carol and her husband Grant Logan run a chocolate and candy store in Old Strathcona. There are eleven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

GEORGE AND EVA BADICK

Submitted by Eva Badick

I filed on NE ¼ Sec. 25 Tp 18-Rge 9-W5M in 1936. My foster father wanted me to file on a ½ Sec. I fell in love with the spruce trees that were on it.

I met George Badick in the spring of 1937. We got married on October 26, 1938. We moved into a log cabin on Bill Drakes's place, across the highway at the lights on 50 Avenue. (Richard), Dick, our oldest son was born on October 20, 1939.

George hewed logs and built our 2-bedroom log home. In 1940, we moved west from the Drake cabin into the Claude Hellier home in the area of Bohdan Urchyshyn's store. In 1940 we moved to the homestead. Carl arrived on April 24, 1941. He passed away in 1960. Roger came along on December 31, 1943. Our boys attended Dunington School until they were able to finish their schooling in Drayton Valley.

Badick sawmill across the Pembina River

Dick married Leona Fink. They had 4 girls. He later divorced and married Betty Orlesky. They reside on an acreage on what was my homestead. Roger married Susan Miller. They had a son and a daughter. They divorced and Roger married Veronica Anderson. They made their home on the

1/4 Sec. George had, west of my homestead. Later, they sold and bought an acreage east of Ponoka.

From mud roads to hard top we've all seen the changes. There were no roads and rubber boots had to be worn every time we went outdoors. Supplies had to be brought in once a month. We printed butter and gathered eggs to take to the store (Ernie and Vi Forsythe) in exchange to help with the groceries. George would get a birth of spruce and poplar, log them, then saw them into lumber during the winter. We would go across the Pembina River, until the ice wasn't safe to cross, to the site and dry pile. We would take the lumber out at the next freeze up. We milked cows and fed hogs. We raised between 300 and 500 chickens each year. We always had milk, butter and eggs. We also butchered our own pork and beef. The elk loved our grain fields.

Roger and Robin, Dick and Betty, Eva Badick in front

George and Bill Stairs bought a small tractor (on rubber) and a combine and George kept that going when it was dry enough to the grain or clover seed. Then in the fall, after it froze enough, he'd custom work clearing the brush for people. Of course, after the land was cleared, he would break the land for some.

The Dunington School District left us with a lot of happy memories. A few ladies who had children going to school, got together and the club would have chicken dinners with a dance after. They also held card parties at the school through the winter.

When the oil came George went to work on the drilling rigs until 1965, when he got hurt.

Only a wagon bush trail was what many settlers had in the early days. Wagons were the transportation. We had good gardens, chickens, milking cows, feeding hogs. Later we took our cream to the creamery, which was at that time in the area of Fas Gas or Saans parking lot. It was a lot of hard work but the family had a good home life.

Evelyn Tucker (Joesting) stayed at our house to ride our horse Birdie to get Dick to grade school. Once he fell off accidentally and broke both arms. Mr. Joesting built a cutter for them after Easter and George made a canvas cover on it. Later on, Carl was on the tractor breaking land for a farmer south of Violet Grove when the front wheel hit a stump that was below the brush, and his right arm was broken.

My husband passed on in 1990. I left my home on the farm in 1988 and moved into the Leazure Lee Apartments. I have made many new friends and meet a lot of old friends from the past. It has been a comfortable, easy life since those early mornings to late nights in the past.

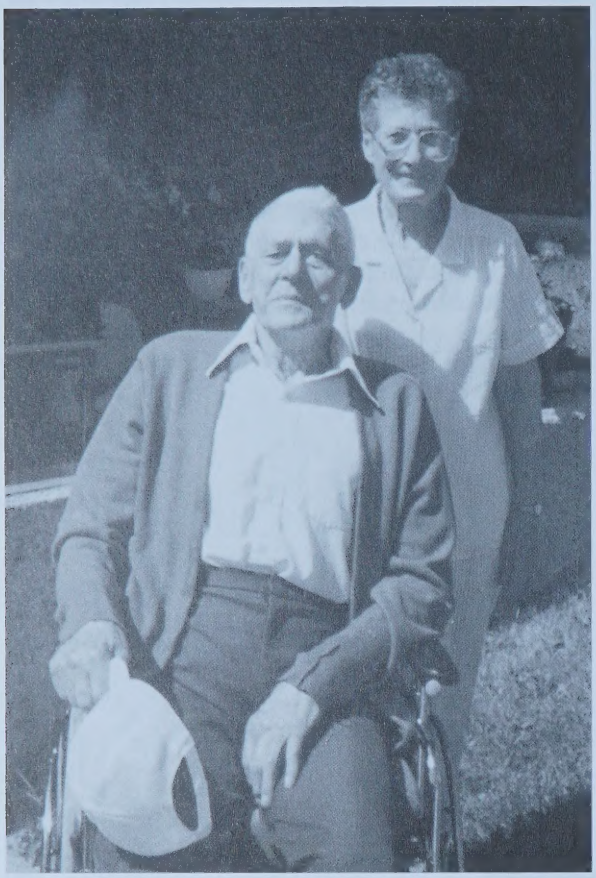
George and Eva Badick in the late 1940's

EVA AND GEORGE BADICK

By Dick Badick

In 1937 Eva Muldoon filed on the NE ¼ of 25-48-9 W5M, under the Homestead Act. The cost at that time was $5 for 160 acres of bush. In 1938 she married George Badick. They moved to the homestead in the spring of 1940 and built a log house 24' x 18'. George cleared land with an axe and worked it with horses. He also built the last 4½ miles of road into the homestead with the help of his father-in-law and some neighbours. (Not a road as of today). In the summers George farmed and Eva raised 3 boys and a garden. Chickens, pigs and cattle were part of the every day chores for Eva and the boys. George also did custom plowing and threshing for neighbours. This was usually a fall event where the

threshing moved from homestead to homestead, with everybody helping.



George and Eva Badick

I can remember times that George walked to the Violet Grove Store, 7½ miles, for groceries because it was too wet to use any other means of transportation. The three boys went to Dunnington School, 4 miles away and there were many days when they walked. In the winter George ran a sawmill and sawed lumber. Eva would cook if the mill was close enough, so she could also do what had to be done on the farm.

In 1953, with the discovery of oil, things changed. We finally had electricity and other means of work. The Badicks finally got electricity in 1957 when they built a new house. The oil companies built better roads, so it was no longer a day's event to go to the store and back, a total of 15 miles.

George passed away in December 1990. Eva lives in a senior citizens apartment in Drayton Valley. Dick the eldest son lives on an acreage on the homestead quarter, not far from where his father built his first log house. Carl the middle son was lost in a car accident in 1960. Roger the youngest son lives on an acreage near Ponoka.

JOHN AND MARG BALEN

Written by Marg Balen

John Balen moved to Drayton Valley in August 1959, and Marg followed from Kamloops in October. In late October, 1959, I was travelling from Kamloops, B.C. to Drayton Valley, Alberta in a Volkswagen (Herbie type) with all the things that you couldn't trust a moving van with. My husband had a job with Pembina Pipe Line that summer and had purchased a little skidshack on five acres just outside of Drayton Valley.

The night before I was to leave Kamloops, my husband called and said it was too late in the year to go over the Yellowhead Trail and I was to head south, go through the United States and back north through Calgary. He said "See you in 3 days".

Being young and headstrong, a call to the RCMP revealed that the Yellowhead was not closed, and in 1959, it was a trail through farmers' yards and around the cows and chickens. The next morning at 5 AM I left Kamloops and 2 hours later had a flat tire. After getting all the fixings out of the bonnet of the Volkswagen, luck was with me and around the corner came a jeep with a seismic crew. They were amazed to find a woman sitting in the middle of the road, and changed the tire for me, teasing me mercilessly. After getting the tire fixed at the blacksmith shop an hour later, I realized the car was getting low on gas. I pulled into Blue River where I learned that the town was out of gasoline due to a railroad strike. Proceeded on, as there was nothing else to do and after the auxiliary tank ran out, started to walk. About a mile down the road, there was a gentleman using a rain barrel as a wash basin. Realizing that he was clad in long underwear only, he ran and put some pants on. He did not have much gas to spare, but did manage to scare some up and helped me get on my way again.

Top Left – Lance Hartman, Karen Hartman, Mark Balen, Bottom – Marg and John Balen, Breanna and Kyla Hartman, Chad Balen, Maureen Balen

A couple of hours later, I rounded a comer a little too fast, encountered a huge mud hole in the middle of the road. Slamming on the brakes caused the 200-plus jars of preserves to slide forward, along with me, against the windshield and I had to wiggle and push them back enough to drive the car again. Well, the car is solidly stuck in the mud and took at least 20 minutes of rocking back and forth to get out.

At 2 AM the next morning I arrived in Drayton Valley at the little shack in the bush, as my husband had given directions on the phone. There was a little one eyed dog outside this shack (that was later a chicken coup). I turned the car lights into the shack and honked the horn for about 5 minutes. No response, so returned to D. V., got a room at the Drayton Valley Hotel and tried to sleep. The next morning I returned to the skidshack to learn that the dog had been a bonus when buying the property and my husband was a very sound sleeper. Hubby and brother-in-law were amazed that I was there and asked "Did you fly?". I replied "Far from it".

John was born in Mercoal Alberta. He worked for Pembina Pipe Line for 36 years. Marg worked for the Conservation Board for 13 years and Helm Consulting for 8 years.

In 1960, son Mark was born. John was transferred to Lodgepole, and daughter Karen was born in 1962. After 4 years and a move back to Drayton Valley, they purchased 20 acres one mile from the town limits.

John was known for his good nature and expertise in smoking fish, definitely not his golfing!! Except if you count coming home from Pembina Pipe's Jasper Tournament with three prizes, one for hitting the most squirrels on the course, one for most balls in the water, and "highest" score. His original fish smoker was an old fridge that he talked Jim Streit to "donate", and then an electric, and finally graduating the big smoker built to his specifications by 3 Way Rentals with a capacity of at least 100 lbs. Was that salmon good!!

Mark married Maureen Faller and they have one son, Chad, and daughter Jessica. After working overseas in Saudi and Iran for several years, they returned to Canada and is now self-employed and reside in Calgary.

Karen married Lance Hartman and they have two daughters, Kyla and Breanna. Karen is a well known employee of the Royal Bank and Lance owns Windy Ridge Vacuum Services.

John passed away in October, 1995 at the age of 59 years.

EVELYN KYNOCH BAILER

In 1943, on the twenty-third day of April, I made my entrance into this world. My parents, Gordon and Violet Kynoch, lived in Mountain Park, Alberta. Gordon was the eldest son of Gordon and Dora Kynoch, while Violet, was the only daughter of Robert and Olga Southoff. My younger brother Donald was the final addition to the family in June of 1945, following a move to the small village of Luscar.

During my formative years, we lived on Grandma & Grandpa Kynoch's farm. My Father found employment primarily in lumber camps and mines in the Entwistle area. For the most part, I called Drayton Valley home for the first 20 years of my life. I began attending the Eldorado School in 1949, with Mrs. Deby as my teacher. In fact that same school stands to this day.

My childhood memories of Drayton Valley have a certain warmth and fondness that hometown memories often do. At that time the population of this tiny village was about seventy-five. Most residents lived on homesteads although not all worked the land. Many served a double duty of sorts, farming and also labouring in the lumber camps or at the mine in near by Entwistle. This tight-knit community seemed to be anchored by the local Anglican church and the community hall. All of our daily provisions were supplied by three small stores: Miller's store, which also featured the only post office, competed alongside Rudd's Red & White and Blocks, in the heart of Drayton. I remember as a child, looking forward to the many community picnics and dances that would take place throughout the summer.

In 1950 we moved west of Edson to Marlboro. In this location, new to all of us, my father worked for the Franklin Lumber company, while my mother became a supervisor for a correspondence school. It was at this point my parents decided it was time to purchase the family's first car. Never having seen my father operate a car before, I was seriously afraid and wondered whether he could actually drive.

After a couple of years we returned to Drayton Valley. Dad worked in a lumber camp for Fred Urchychyn and Danny Bills, while Mom served in the cook house. Fred and Lena Urchychyn and their two children lived in the camp as well.

As the only means of education, we enrolled in correspondence courses. As a very active nine year old, I thought these never ending lessons were the worst possible thing I could be subjected to. School was often boring, and there was no source of entertainment to speak of. One could only go skating or sleigh riding so many times before it all became old hand. We had a battery powered radio and when the battery went dead I found myself facing unspeakable boredom. During the much anticipated

Christmas season our family would travel to Grandma & Grandpa Kynoch's farm in Drayton. I especially looked forward to this time as I would escape the annoyance of a younger brother by staying with my grandparents and finishing the school term.

In about 1953, my parents eagerly applied for a homestead, 5 miles west of Drayton Valley. With great jubilation their application was accepted and they began building a small house on the land. My father supported us by transporting lumber throughout the winter with his trusty three ton truck and hauled gravel in the summer, given that it didn't rain all summer long. Anyone who has lived in the Drayton area knows all too well about the infamous Drayton Valley mud.

With employment opportunities scarce, most families struggled just to meet their basic needs. These were meager times for this humble community. However, all that changed in 1953 when oil was discovered and Drayton Valley suddenly became an area of opportunity. The population grew rapidly from merely 75 to a staggering 3000 by years end. With the on-set of the oil boom, men considered actual careers, women entered the work force and children filled portable schools. To meet the educational needs of the students, the town built a modern, new high School, soon followed by a new junior high school. But progress often breeds a sort of fear and soon parents began discussing how "wild" the town had become. Much to the dismay of the young people a 9:30 pm curfew was enforced.

It was during this growth period that my father took a job with an oil company called McCall Frontenac, as a battery operator. The Company later became Texaco Canada. While in school, I worked part time at Blocks Store and later, full time at Congers. In 1963, I moved from Drayton Valley to Wetaskiwin to work at the General Hospital. But in the midst of my families financial stability and my personal freedom, tragedy struck that same year. My father was killed suddenly in a farming accident and, needless to say, our lives were changed forever. I moved back home to stay with Mom for a while as we weathered this deep and painful loss. As things stabilized I found myself returning to Wetaskiwin, finding work this time at the Bank of Montreal.

Two years later, I married Jerry Bailer, and by 1971 we had two boys, Randy and Barry. We moved to, and continue to live on the Bailer family farm, west of Wetaskiwin. Other than farming, Jerry has been employed with the Provincial Government for the past sixteen years. I chose to be a stay at home mom, and as anyone knows who lives on a farm, there is never a shortage of things to do. Randy, and his wife Debi, also have a home on the family farm, making this the third generation to reside here. Both Randy and Barry, work in Wetaskiwin.

VICTOR AND EVELYN BALL

Victor Grayson Ball was born in West Salisbury, Alberta in 1909 into a family of 13. He moved to Easyford in the spring of 1930 where he and his brother took up homesteads on the Pembina River. They were pioneers in the district.

Evelyn Muriel Grace Oscar was born on July 14, 1914 in Kyle, Saskatchewan. She attended school in Kyle until she was sixteen and moved to Easyford in the fall of 1930 with her parents and eight siblings.

Victor and Evelyn met in the interim and were married in 1936. Along with farming and to help support a growing family, Victor operated a sawmill and trap line in winter and later worked for Mobil Oil of Canada. Among other things, Evelyn looked after the household and children, grew gardens and preserved large quantities of vegetables, wild meat and berries for the long winters. She loved music and played the organ whenever church services were held in the district.

They had three children, Joan Evelyn (1941), Bonnie Mae (1943) and Gary Victor (1944). They all attended school in Easyford and Drayton Valley.

After school, Joan (McKay) took a business course in Edmonton and was employed at a bank and in various other jobs. She now resides along the Pembina River near Lodgepole with her husband, Ken McKay, where they operate a farm and commute to their cryogenic business – Temper-Master Inc. in Calgary. They have three children, Dawn, Bradley and Kim, who live in Calgary with their families, including 5 grandchildren.

After high school, Bonnie Mae (Newsmall) attended secretarial school in Edmonton and later on Simon Fraser University in BC where she graduated with a BA in Communication Studies. She now resides in Victoria with her partner of many years, Scott Davis, where they operate a non-profit society, Friends of Renewable Energy BC. She has one daughter, Alannah, who lives in Vancouver.

Gary attended DeVry College in Toronto after high school, where he studied electronics. After finishing college, he went to work for Alberta Government Telephones, where he is still employed, now by Telus. He had two children, Todd and Bonnie, with his first wife and is now expecting a grandchild. Gary and his wife Barbara reside in Edmonton with their two young children, Candice and Kyle.

Victor and Evelyn retired in 1975 and moved into Drayton Valley.

Evelyn passed away in Drayton Valley on February 25, 1978 at the age of 63. Victor passed away on Sept. 1, 1981 in Edmonton at the age of 72.

The original Ball homestead is now the site of Pembina River Nurseries, on Secondary Highway #621. The "new" house built in 1948 is still there, as well as the barn from the 50's.

Despite the hardships that were part of life for our parents, we have many happy memories of our childhood. In the summers we swam in the river, picked the wild strawberries and blueberries, and usually had a horse to ride and a dog as a constant companion. In the winter we skated on the river, tobogganed and played on the sculpted hard snowdrifts. The house was warm and cozy, the food was wonderful. We are grateful to our parents, and their friends and relatives for the life experience of those early days.

ROBERT BARKER

Written by Robert E (Bob) Barker

I moved to Drayton Valley at the age of 16, during the summer of 1956 to seek employment. My first impression was not that great as the bus had to be pulled through the mud holes on the new highway north of Drayton Valley. The reason I moved to Drayton was because my sister and brother-in-law (Mary and John lbbotson) had sold their farm in Spruce Lake, Sask. and moved to Drayton to work in the oil industry.

My first summer I worked at Mannix Pipeline Company as a laborer and was able to put a little money aside to enroll in grade XI in Drayton Valley. The first year I worked for Mannix all the equipment operators and supervisors were American personnel. I worked the next summer as well at Mannix and completed my grade XII, graduating in 1958. The Grade XII graduating class for Drayton Valley consisted of 2 boys and 11 girls. My secondary education included gas technology obtaining the status of Engineering Technician.

While attending school I met May Thomason who I later married in 1961. We have two daughters, Andrea, a registered nurse of Drayton Valley and Whitney an RCMP of Port Coquitlam, BC.

After high school I worked for Wimar Foods and later Thompson's Sporting Goods before going into the oil industry as a gas plant operator for Goliad Oil & Gas Company. We moved to Buck Creek to live at the Goliad Plant site for 15 years. Later we moved back to Drayton Valley where I entered the private service sector of the oil industry. I spent twelve years with Pembina Oil Separators and seven years at my present position as owner manager of Tumbleweed Controls Ltd.

Bob and Mary Barker family

May arrived in Drayton Valley with her family in 1954. After finishing high school in 1960 May went to work for the Royal Bank until Andrea was born in 1964, and Whitney was born in 1968. After the girls were in school, May went to work for Dr. Hank Shimbashi as a dental assistant. She went to work at Collins Barrow, an accounting firm, where she is presently employed as office manager. Andrea married Daren Fald in 1987 (Daren is also a partner in Tumbleweed Controls Ltd.), Daren and Andrea have two children; Kyle and Kendra. Andrea works at the Drayton Valley Hospital.

Whitney married Richard Benoit in 1992. Rich is an electrician working for Westpac Electrical in Vancouver. Rich and Whitney have one daughter, Chelsea who is one year old. Whitney works in General Investigation section in North Vancouver.

May and I are involved in many community projects and clubs and enjoy the life of small community Drayton Valley. We have seen many changes over the years as Drayton Valley has grown from a transient trailer town to a well developed, stable community. We have enjoyed many great experiences over the past 40 years in Drayton Valley and look forward to many more.

WALTER AND FERN BARNAY

When Walter and I got married and moved to where we live now, the first people we met were Albert and Olive Hodgson. Albert was our school bus driver. Olive still lives up the road from us.

We lived here a couple of days. Walter & I and the kids went shopping and came home to find three big pigs at our door. They were our first visitors. We looked at each other and said "My God, what kind of place did we buy?" Well these pigs took off into the bush. A couple of days later our neighbor, just to the north of us, came over to welcome us to our new home. This was when we met Jean Peck. We told her what had happened with the pigs. Jean just laughed and said, "you met my pigs". Then she told how the Pecks had owned this land and how their pigs had roamed all over as they wished. Well, that was the start of a life-long friendship with the Peck family. At this time Jean was a widow with four kids. I had been a widow with four kids. Jean was the youngest of three, had an older sister and brother. I was the youngest of three, with an older sister and brother. It seemed that we were so much alike.

After a couple of years, we and the Peck family started to spend Christmas Eve together. Our families grew up and left home. Jean and I were still here and good friends. Jean's family and ours spent twentyeight Christmas Eves together. Jean taught me how to garden and how to tell duck and goose eggs apart.

Jean had two boys. Leon was the oldest, Warren the younger. Leon and Warren would fight. Walter would tell Leon that some day he would be sorry. One afternoon Jean phoned to ask Walter if he could fix a window. Warren had thrown Leon out the window without opening it.

One day Jean and I were hauling oats. Leon and my son Lyle would help us unload the first load at our place, the second one at Pecks. The boys were there to help. Well little did we know what they had talked about. The oats had been unloaded. The boys just knew that they were old and big enough to drive, so that was their first driving attempt. They didn't go far. The truck slid sideways and there was a fence post between the cab and the box. We made them cut off the post. I drove the truck out and the boys spent the rest of the day fixing the fence. We made them dig post holes and put the post in right. Jean and I were not in the boys good books for a day or two.

We also were good friends with Albert and Olive Hodgson. Olive and I would get together at our place once or twice a year. Olive would arrive at our place about 8 or 9 o'clock in the evening. We would talk about our kids who were trying to drive us crazy. We would tell each other how we handled

1940. From Back, L to R, August Schmidt, Edwin Brandt (John), Lewis Schmidt, Dena Schmidt, unknown, Lawrence Schmidt, Lyda Schmidt, Bill Schmidt. Middle Row, Nellie Schmidt (Josie), Reggie Schmidt. Front Row, Barbara Schmidt, Ella Schmidt, Albert Schmidt, David Schmidt. Sitting, Ernest Schmidt (Grandpa), Fern Schmidt, Marvin Schmidt

our kids and sometimes even our husbands. Olive and I would sit here until two or three in the morning, when often the door bell would ring. There was Albert at the door, wondering whether Olive was there. He would come in and have a coffee or tea and would ask whether we knew it was almost breakfast time. He would say he had been asleep, woke up and Olive wasn't home yet. So he came to find her. When he would see Walter, he would smile and say "Walter, those damn women of ours had another all-nighter". I had to go get Olive home just in time for breakfast." Then they would have a good laugh, but we always told them that they also could have an all-nighter.

At one time Olive worked at the drive-in, so when the boys wanted to see a show, Olive would park the car and the boys would walk up to the drive-in to see the show. Olive would drop Lyle off after the show. By this time Stan Parenteau was hanging out with our boys. The three of them could get in more trouble than you could shake a stick at!

Before Lyle was old enough for a gun, all the boys had pellet guns. One day Lyle, Leon Peck, Lee Hodgson and Brad Lockhart took guns and went hunting. They could not find anything to shoot. As these boys walked through the bush, they saw one of Jean's old roosters. They laid down and were trying to shoot it when along comes Jean. That was the end of hunting roosters.

One day Walter and I had a bar-be-que and had half the neighborhood come. Well, most of the men got in to bad ice. About midnight, Bill Lockhart and Marcel Brisebois took off with a truck and came back with big logs, dumped them in the yard and put diesel on them. Boy what a bon fire. It burned for three days. It took years before the grass came back.

About thirty years ago, Walter and I were good friends with a couple from Violet Grove. She would make white lightning. She would phone and say to come over tonight after he had gone to work. About midnight we would run off this white lightning. We had the fan on over the stove so there was no smell in the house. One time we did this and the next night some man came in where the husband worked and said that the night before when he got home and got out of his truck he sure could smell someone making white lightning. I don't know if she made any more after that but I didn't help her. I tried to make home-made wine. The pigs wouldn't even drink it, so my wine making days were over before they even started.

In 1980 our son married Deb Martin over in Leslieville. It rained and at that time Leslieville's streets were mud. We all had long dresses and had mud to our knees. Lyle and Deb still live there. Then in 1984, Jammie married Frank Swap. They were married at our place. It was a beautiful day, but the next day we got a storm like you would not believe. It took three months to get the house liveable. We have a lot of Good Memories and a lot of them are Happy Ones.

CAL AND JESSIE BARTLETT

Submitted by Jessie Bartlett

In 1932, at age 19, Cal came to Alberta with his folks from Roundup, Montana. They were looking for land and some of his stepfather's nephews had taken land in the Easyford area. Cal decided to have a look there. He came with Raymond Shears with a load of oats, etc. from Ardrossan, by team and wagon. They got along pretty well until they came to the turnoff to Easyford where they spent the night getting stuck and loading and unloading before they got to the homestead. Cal was not too impressed but he stayed awhile and helped his cousins and worked cutting brush around the district. In the meantime his folks had bought land at Magnolia so Cal went to work whereever he could find it. He worked for Charlie Cummings near Wetaskiwin for a while and then at Charlie's son-in-law's place at Waskatenau. He stayed there for five years. We met there and were married in 1938. Cal took a homestead at Magnolia close to his folks and built us a log cabin. He dug a well and cleared a few acres. But we could not see much future for us there. We sold out and Cal went to work for Bill Robinson in the lumber camps south of Violet Grove. I lived in Entwistle for awhile until they could get a cabin built for us. Son, Jim, was a year old and we lived in lumber camps for a year. Then we rented the Watson River flats for two years until Mr. Watson wanted it back. It was a beautiful place to live, but there were no neighbours and no roads for miles. It took us all day to go out to the store and post office at Violet Grove, so we didn't go more often than necessary.

Cal, Jim, John and Jessie Bartlett

In 1944, Cal got his call to the army and joined up. The kids (3 by now) and I went to Magnolia to live near his folks and wait for him to come home. This wasn't until the fall of 1946. (He had a year's occupational duty in Germany.) Then we had to decide where we were going to live. All Cal wanted to do was to get back to good water and wild fruit and game of the Violet Grove country. So we took a homestead just ½ a mile from our friend Slim Matheson and a mile from Jack Matheson. It was tough going for a while, even with the help from the V.L.A. We had poor crops the first year and hail storms nearly every year. Cal was back working in lumbercamps for Helmut Weichert, Jack Matheson and George Badick, but finally the land started producing better and we had most of it cleared by caterpillars which was better than the old grub-hoe and axe. We had another son, Dan, in 1951. The children drove or rode horseback to Dunnington school, two miles north of our place and this was also the centre of the community for dances, picnics, etc., and everybody joined in. It was a good community to live in.

Cal and Jim Bartlett haying 1947

In 1953, the first oil well was brought in just a mile north of our place. Such excitement. Cal had work clearing leases with horses for a while and then in 1954, he was hired on by Socony Seaboard, or Mobil Oil as it is called now. With the rush of oil workers coming in, there were not enough places for them to stay, so everyone took in men to room and board. A construction camp with 150 men sprang up just across the road from us and we were surrounded by trailers and people wanting clothes washed, fresh water, and all kinds of help. Our roads, which were just country lanes, couldn't stand the heavy traffic and we were stranded in mud up to the knees. But gradually conditions improved, more homes and schools were built in Drayton Valley and Violet Grove for workers' families. Our older children were bussed to Drayton Valley, which helped the overcrowding of the little school. The oil companies helped to put in electricity and gravelled the roads, which helped everyone.

Jet Steam Cleaning Ltd. 1962

Cal worked at Mobil Oil's water injection plant on the Brownbill flat for 17 years, which was 8 miles from home, and we were able to drive cars and take vacations every summer. In 1973-74, Cal was very ill in hospital for 4 months. When he came home, he wasn't well enough to do heavy work so he retired in 1975 and we continued to live on the farm until 1979, when we moved to Drayton Valley.

Our oldest son Jim moved to the United States and was a Highway Patrolman in California for 26 years until his retirement. JoAnne lives in Calgary and Dan & Vern are still around Drayton Valley, which is a big help to us. We have 11 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. We celebrated our 60th Anniversary in March 1998. It's been a good life.

Cal Bartlett moving a rig during the 1950's

LYLLE AND RACHEL BECKETT

Submitted by Rachel Beckett

Lylle was born in Lloydminster, Alberta, on June 20, 1923, eldest son of William and Luella Beckett, farmers in the Paradise Valley area. Lylle attended Uneeda School which was just across the field and within running distance of home. Upon completing grade eight he took up farming, helping his Dad on their three quarter sections. This was done mainly with horses, usually running two outfits spring and fall. The work horses were brought to and from pasture 1½ miles from home each day, a chore which Lylle gladly did on the back of his favorite horse. Horses have always played a big part in his life. A John Deere tractor was purchased and owning their own threshing machine meant many fall days were spent pitching bundles, both for themselves and neighbors. Horse races were a common Sunday pastime, with cousins and friends. With a corral tucked away in the security of the surrounding hills, the neighbors young horses were often ridden unbeknown to the owners. It was while riding in these hills that he met his future wife.

In the fall of 1943, William Beckett purchased the E½ 32-45-7-W5 from William Wolschlager, having decided the Drayton Valley area held more promise for the future of his three sons. He also had cousins, the Durhams and Laws, as well as friends from the Paradise Valley district living here. Two box cars were loaded in Blackfoot, west of Lloyminster, with livestock, machinery and household effects in April 1944. Arriving in Entwistle, all was unloaded and brought down the "old road" through Moon Lake and Rocky Rapids with teams and wagons and one pulled by the John Deere. The livestock trailed along behind followed by the boys on horseback. One stop was made overnight at "Fox's Corner" where George Morrill now lives.

They soon found the grey wooded soil in this area much different to farm than the sandy loam they had left and the lush grass didn't contain the same food value of the prairie wool. Life in general was a big change for all. Only one horse of the 14 head they brought here survived "swamp fever", a big disaster to a family who took such pride in their horses.

I, Rachel Halstead, was born in Tring, Hertfordshire, England on March 24, 1924, coming to Canada with my parents, Richard and Hilda Halstead, two sisters and one brother. We arrived in Lloydminster on May 22, 1930 in the midst of a snow storm. We were CPR settlers in the Madresfield District, south west of Lloyd. Several other English families were our neighbors, also coming through the CPR. Children at that time had to be seven years old before attending school so I found my first year here in Canada rather boring as I had already attended school for one year in England. My first request was for a saddle horse, which my father gladly purchased and from then on was my mode of transportation. Riding is something both Lylle and I enjoy today.

In the spring of 1944, the NE 9-49-7-W5, where Aspenview stands today, was purchased from Gene Arthur and was to become our future home. We were married on April 7, 1945 in Paradise Valley, and the next day with a newly purchased Model A Ford coupe converted into a truck we headed for Drayton Valley. Due to the muddy roads we stayed with Lylle's folks until April 17 when we ventured to our new home. We had to leave the Model A at the corner where St. Anthony's school is and used the team and wagon or rode the horse for the next three weeks. Like most of our neighbors we milked cows, sold cream, grew grain and raised a few pigs. Any spare time was used to clear more land and we all spent many hours picking roots and rocks, with no running water or hot showers awaiting us at the end of the day.

Lylle and Rachel Beckett, Donna , Colleen, Randy and Larry

On July 14, 1946, our first son Larry was born back in Lloydminster. He is single and makes his home with us. On April 23, 1948 disaster struck the family when the sleigh with Lylle's parents, younger brother Jim and Granny Landers overturned in the flood swollen creek south of the junction of what is now 50th St. and Hwy. 22. Willie was able to save Jim, only 13 years old and Granny

Landers but Lou was swept away by the high waters and drowned. Only one month later, pregnant with our second child, I developed convulsions. Roads were still impassable but Eric Jonzon and his Model T, with many gears brought Dr. Wickware from Tomahawk and we all left for Edmonton. Donna Luella was born the next day and remained in the hospital for one month before gaining enough weight to come home. She married Ken Hopf in 1971, had two children, Blaine, in 1974 and Janine in 1977. They were divorced in 1982 and she married Ken Powell in 1994. They make their home in Wildwood. Our second daughter, Colleen, arrived January 7, 1954, the tom-boy of the family who always preferred the outdoor life. She married Cecil Andersen of Marwayne in 1973. They moved to the Drayton Valley area in 1981 after purchasing the river flat fondly known to old timers as "Brownbill Flats". They have three sons, Pat born in 1975, Ryan in 1978 and Bart in 1982. Our youngest, Randy joined us May 2, 1957, married Doreen Floden of Lindale in 1977 and has two sons, Danny born in 1977 and Dwayne in 1979. We were fortunate to have all seven grandchildren raised in this area and we saw them often. They are now all young adults and beginning to get scattered over the country.

In 1954, with the oil boom, Lylle left home with his axe and joined the crew of Location Clearing started by Jim Wright. With Scotty Whyte as foreman the first job was to clear the site for Battery Nine and other well sites in the area. He moved on to work for Mobil Oil with the construction gang, checking gravel for three years and surveying under John Nagy's keen eye. He was laid off from Mobil Oil in April 1961, then worked as rodman for survey contractors. The farm was always a part of his life with crop harvested each year and it once again became a full time job. In 1964 we sold a parcel of land for St. Anthony's School and another piece later for Frank Maddock High School. Town was fast encroaching and in order to maintain our farm life we purchased the NE 15-47-7-W5, sold the home place to a developer, and after thirty three years on the edge of town we moved to our present home where we can see town better than before.

We are now retired, doing some travelling, camping, taking in rodeos, poetry gatherings and similar events. Randy looks after the farmland and Doreen's Simmental with a few of our Herefords for contrast, take care of the pasture. We are fortunate to have young energy near who are always ready to lend a helping hand. It means a lot to both of us that we are able to maintain our country way of life. Horses still play a big part and we often ride the trails in the area. Good neighbors have always been there for us, sharing the good times and the bad. Drayton Valley has been a great place to call home.

JIM AND JEAN BECKETT

Written by Jean Beckett

Jim and I met in the summer of 1956. He was a cat operator for Leduc Construction (now Ledcor) and I was waitressing at No Jack Café during July and August In September, I took grade twelve at Evansburg High School. The following September, I started work in Edmonton for Alberta Government Telephones. Now in those days there was only one telephone in Drayton Valley and it was at the Hotel, so there never was very much hope in getting to use it. Our correspondence was mainly with letters and the odd time a mobile phone, but the conversation would cut out frequently. By now, Jim was working on rigs.

We were married on September 7 ,1960. I always referred to Jim as my friend. This was rather embarrassing at times as when I would introduce Jim to people, I would often say, "This is my friend Jim." and they would say, "Oh, I thought you two were married". My reply was, "Yes we are, and he is still my friend".

Our first home was an 8x35 trailer, which Jim had bought from Lee and Helen Darragh. We parked our trailer in Lylle and Rachel's yard (Jim's brother and his wife). Jim was now working for a company called McGregor and Johannson, and in the early fall of 1961, we moved to Swan Hills. By mid winter this company had little to no work. We had enough money to pay for one more months trailer rent, or pay for the trailer to be moved back to

Jim, Leanne, Tara-Lee, Don and Jean Beckett

Joe Bowden's
Wild Well Control Inc

22730 Gosling Road Spring, Texas 77379 TELEX 774-307
Office (713) 353-5481 Residence (713) 376-7403

Januarly 17, 1983

J. E. Beckett
Construction Superintendent
Flint Engineering & Construction, Ltd.
Box 328
Drayton Valley, Alberta
TOE OMO

Dear Jim:

Just wanted to let you know how much all your support and cooperation meant to us there in Alberta. You and your crew did an outstanding job and we want to express our appreciation to all of you.

When we have such good qualified crews to call on, it makes our job run so much smoother. So thanks again and relay our appreciation to your crew.

If we can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Cordially,

WILD WELL CONTROL, INC.

Joe R. Bowden
President

JRB:blp

Drayton Valley. Needless to say, we chose the latter as Jim knew we could pick up odd jobs there. In January, Art Durham, who was also working for McGregor and Johannson, came back here and set up a sawmill on Dismal Creek, west of Lodgepole. Jim went to work at the sawmill and I went to cook at the camps. It was an interesting experience. We went to the spring for water, the fridge was a wooden box with a lid on it outside the cookshed door. I'll never forget one incident. Jim had worked in the camps before, but this was all new to me. He suggested I set the table at night thus leaving more time in the morning to prepare breakfast. I set the table the way we normally do, but was soon informed that you put the cutlery under the plates, which were upside down, and cup upside down on top of the plates, reason being so mice didn't run on the dishes. Needless to say, this did not impress me too much. And yes, there were lots of mice, especially at night, when you were trying to sleep, they were skittering allover the place. We left in the late spring before the ice broke on the rivers. Jim's comment about this job was that he stayed in many camps before, but this was the first time he had stayed with the cook.

In March 1963, Don was born and in the fall of 1964, we moved our trailer to Jim's dad's farm. In late winter of 1964, we bought a large (to us) trailer, 10x52. What were we going to do with all this room? Lianne was born in May of 1965. In April 1965, Jim went to work for Flint Engineering for a couple of months, which turned out to be 25 years.

In November of 1967, Jim's dad passed away. Jim and his brother Vern (who lived on the quarter across the road from the family farm) continued the farming activities, along with their own employment. Although I had grown up on a farm, I had never milked a cow. Well, I soon learned and milked one or two cows for seven years, making butter and selling cream. In 1973, we bought the home quarter SE ¼-32-48-7-W5 and in 1974 had a house built. We bought more cattle and continued farming. I also started to work at the Dayton Valley post office in the spring of 1974.

Soon we became figure skater, hockey and baseball parents. Jim coached ball for three years. It seemed in the winter time our station wagon was always full of kids, skates and hockey paraphernalia on our way to hockey tournaments or figure skating competitions. Any spare time we had, we (as a family) were snowmobiling with other families, and in the summer we went out on camping and fishing trips. The family trips included Jim and Don going to wilderness fishing camps or fly in fishing camps (Namur Lake) and us going salmon fishing on Vancouver Island. We went to many dances, where Jim was called upon to square dance quite often.

In October, 1982, Amoco Canada had a gas well blow out of control in the Lodgepole area. Many people were involved in this ordeal and Jim, with a crew of men from Flint Engineering, were among them. Included is a letter that Jim received from Joe Bowden.

In 1990, Jim took early retirement from Flint Engineering and continued farming and enjoying his retirement.

In 1993, Don married Lara-Le Watson and moved to Grande Prairie. They later moved to Red Deer where they are today. They have two children, Kyle and Brayden. Lianne has a very special friend, David, and lives here on the farm.

In the spring of 1997, we decided to rent our land to Cecil and Colleen Andersen and I was planning to retire in the fall after 23 years of service in the post office.

In June of 1997, we went on a camping and fishing trip at Carson Lake (one of many) near Whitecourt with Don, Lara-Le, and their two boys, also Lara-Le's parents, Darlene and Orville Watson. Jim and I were out fishing when Jim had a heart attack and passed away suddenly. I still reside on the farm.

VERN & ELLEN BECKETT

Submitted by Ellen Beckett

In 1944, at the age of fifteen, Vern came from Paradise Valley, Alberta, with his parents and two brothers to farm just south of Drayton Valley on land originally owned by the Wolschlager's. It was quite a change for them but they adapted well. They brought machinery and livestock by train from Blackfoot to Entwistle and were ready to farm. They rented a 1/4 of land where Hillcrest is to add to their farm land. They raised Hereford cattle, so hay and grain was very important.

In 1947, my aunt, Mrs. Grace Landers, went back to teach school at Violet Grove and needed someone to watch the children so I came out to help her out as I had my grandmother Landers and aunts and uncles living out here. So it was a working holiday. Soon after I met Vern who changed my whole life. On July 20, 1949, we were married in the Forestburg United Church.

Vern hauled lumber from back west for a couple years then got a better job driving truck for Maclarens Cartage at Viking. By 1953, the oil had come to Drayton Valley so at last we could make a decent living out here. Vern worked for a short time for Location Clearing, clearing oil leases. Then they put a road down to the ferry and he hired on with Bain

Bros. Construction driving a packer cat. Then the rains came and he spent time pulling cars and trucks through the mud on what is called Swap's Coulee. He worked for thirteen years for Leduc Construction which is now called Ledcor. They built roads and leases for Texaco and other oil companies This took us to Cynthia, Lodgepole, Whitecourt, Slave Lake and back to Alsike building the road between Alsike and Breton, bringing us back to Drayton Valley where we farmed for several years and worked for Anchor Construction and then to Flint Engineering for twenty three years retiring at sixty five.

Bill Beckett 1964

During our working years, we raised a family of six children. Margaret was born in Sept, 1950, in Killam, Alberta. She married Raymond Hutchinson of Easyford. To this union, they had Rick, Shelley and Robert. Rick married Shannon Ross; Shelley married Shawn Johannasson; and Robert is still single.

Verna was born May 3, 1954, in Killam, Alberta. She married Rick Block, and has three children; Rich, John, and Laurie. They live in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, where Rick works in the Weyerhaeuser pulp and paper mill. Verna works for Prince Albert Daily Herald.

Janet, was born in Edmonton, March 20, 1957. She married Randall Moscaluk and they have four girls; Randi-Ellen, Andrea, Elizabeth and Katherine. Randi-Ellen married Jason Seel, and they have a little girl, Serena.

Gladys, was born November 15, 1960 in the Drayton Valley Hospital and is married to Shane Hansen. They have three boys, Kurtis, Cal and Kyle. Cliff was born in the Drayton Valley Hospital on July 20, 1964. He has one son, Bill, who attends high school in Drayton Valley.

Vern, Lylle and Jim Beckett 1994

Fred, was born December 3, 1966, in Drayton Valley Hospital. He married, Cheryl Kalischuk, and they have two children, Tyson and Tristian.

Vern spent many hours in our working days volunteering in minor hockey and driving community bus. I spent many years canvassing, bible studies, Christian Women's clubs, etc. Vern, and the boys, have restored a 1948 John Deere tractor and enjoy using it on our sons acreage. They also entered it in the Leduc Antique show.

We have been retired for five years and spend a lot of time in our holiday trailer. We spend our win-

Back row, L to R Fred, Marg, Janet, Verna, Cliff. (Sitting) Ellen and Vern, and Gladys Beckett

ters at home and when spring comes we head out for the prairies where we both grew up watching for the first gopher and a hill with crocuses on it. Then on to Saskatchewan to visit the rest of our grandchildren.

This probably sounds like a dull life to many but to us it works just fine.

HAROLD AND IRIS BIERKOS

Harold Bierkos was born and raised in the Westlock area on a farm. He was the second eldest of 10 children (Ruth, Harold, Doris (Silvster) Margaret (Pahl), Walter, Leana (Pahl) Phyllis (Trip), Eric, Norman, and Mary (Blaylock). The children attending school from the Bierkos family went to Arvilla. Harold was the oldest son and began working out at a young age to help support his parents and siblings. Harold married Iris Durham just before starting work on the first drilling rig in Drayton Valley.

After working on the rigs he began cat skinning throughout the province. They found themselves moving to Swan Hills for several years and then back to Drayton Valley. They rented the farm from Iris' dad and a couple of years purchased it. Harold also continued oilfield work. While Harold was in the oilfield, Iris was in charge of livestock, garden and family. We have always believed that family and friends are the most important things in life, especially the children.

Jerry, Harold, Iris, Don, Shirley, Donna and Debbie Bierkos

All of Harold and Iris' children graduated from Frank Maddock High School, and now the grandchildren are graduating. Shirley (Coutu) has two sons, Charles and Michael. Shirley passed away from cancer in November 2000. Don married Cindy Clemmer and they have Wayne, Toni-Jean and Lindsey. Toni-Jean married Jeremy Schwab and they have a son Kash. Donna married Ken Mulyk and they have David and Nicole. Debbie married Joel English and they have Jennifer and Ryan. Jerry married Sharon Kobeluk and they have Brandon and Austin.

RENE LUCIEN AND EILEEN JOAN (LINDSKOOG) BELVA

Submitted by Eileen Belva

Rene was born in 1932 the third eldest of eight children of Albert and Angeline Belva-Redvers in Saskatchewn. Eileen was born in 1936 the eldest of four children of Ernest and Bernice Lindskoog – Rocky Rapids, AB.

Rene arrived in Drayton Valley in November of 1953 with S & T Drilling to drill an oilwell in Violet Grove. He worked on this rig until spring break-up, then he worked in Red Fuhr's garage until June, when he got steady employment with Mobil Oil. Rene and Eileen were married on September 19, 1954 in the Rocky Rapids Church of God by Pastors Ewart and Schiek.

In August of 1959, Rene quit oilfield work and on October 1, we began operating the Rocky Rapids General Store, purchased from Mr. D.H. Glass. Rene also became the postmaster (after Gilbert McCall, on November 6, 1959).

During the following years, we purchased NE ¼ 3-50-8-W5 from Joe Kubinec and NW ¼ 34-49-7-W5 from Fred Diebert. We have served on the board and worked diligently for the community league and

Eileen and Rene Belva

I have been a member of the OORP since 1956 and Rene looks after the cemetery.

We raised 3 children. Bradley was born in 1958 and lives in Drayton Valley. Laurel (1960) and Terry Dingwall and their four children, Candace, Kent, Java and Lindsey, live in Rocky Rapids. Glenn (1964) and Catherine (Wiggins) and their three girls, Anita, Erin and Marcy, live in Rocky Rapids.

After 37½ years, we sold our business, now known as Rocky Rapids Store, to son Glenn and family. We have built a new home and plan to retire in Rocky Rapids, surrounded by family and friends.

JEAN & CLAIRE BENOIT

By Claire Benoit

Jean and I both grew up in Chauvin, AB. We were married on February 8, 1964. We were both brought up on farms and after we were married, it was only natural that we would make our living farming. We took over Jean's parents' homestead, and settled into a life on the farm. We soon had three boys, Ronald, Michael, and Richard.

In 1968, however, life changed. Jean took a job in the oil industry with BP Canada. By 1969, we moved from the farm into Chauvin. In town we were introduced to running water and indoor plumbing, luxuries we were not used to! It was during this time we had a girl, Nichole, and another boy, Carey. This completed our family.

Jean's job was going well and in 1972, he was offered a transfer. On August 7, 1972 we packed up our belongings, loaded the kids in the car, and moved to Drayton Valley. We bought a home on 54th Avenue and began our new life in a new town.

Our lives were busy in Drayton Valley. In the winter, with four boys playing hockey, Jean coaching, and Nichole figure skating, our home away from home was the arena. Any free time away from the arena was spent down hill skiing. During the summer, we spent our time camping, fishing, and waterskiing with neighbours and friends.

In 1988, Jean was transferred to Redwater, AB, with Talisman Energy (formerly BP Canada). Ronald, Michael, Richard, and Nichole had all graduated from Frank Maddock High School by this time. Carey, who attended Notre Dame in Saskatchewan for high school was just finishing up.

Jean continued working for Talisman until 1993. He then did contract operating and meter proving in Redwater until he retired in November, 1999.

The past years have been filled with many blessings. Ronald married Michele Bouchard on October 14, 1995, in Drayton Valley. They have two boys Jared and Nate, and live in Drayton Valley. Michael married Donna Fehler on March 29, 1996, in Calgary. They have two girls, Jinell & Miranda. They also live in Drayton Valley. Richard married Whitney Barker on August 27, 1992. They have a girl, Chelsea, and are expecting their second child. They are living in Port Coquitlam, BC. Nichole married Shaun Russell on May 31, 1997, in Drayton Valley. They have a girl, Alexandra and a boy, Camoron. They live in Calgary. Carey married Nadine Davie on May 20, 2000, in St. Albert. They currently live in Drayton Valley.

We enjoyed our years in Drayton Valley. Our memories are very fond of the town, and we are happy that we still have kids there to visit.

FRED BEREZOWSKI

Submitted by Walter Turtiak

Fred Berezowski was born May 3, 1915, at Kowel Ukraine. He immigrated to Canada with his parents in 1928 and lived at Lamont, Alberta, for a few years. He came to the Violet Grove area with Nick Doliuk's family in 1932. Mrs. Doliuk was his cousin. He lived with them for a number of years. He went to the Stony Plain district to harvest with Nick, his brother Joe and my dad in 1933 and 1934. He worked in logging camps in the winter cutting logs with a cross-cut saw in the Buck Creek area for the first few years. In 1937 he homesteaded on NW 1-48-8 W5, built a small log cabin, cleared a few acres of land and rented it to his brother Joe. In 1938 Bill Robinson from Entwistle got a large timber berth southwest of Violet Grove. Then a few sawmills moved in and they started logging. He worked at the logging camp during the winters. At harvest time he went to the Leduc area.

In 1940 he bought the NE quarter of 19-48-7, cleared a few acres of land and rented it to a neighbor. He worked on the Alaska Highway for 1½ years in northern BC and in the Yukon in 1942 and 1943. He returned to his farm and cleared some land in the summer, working in the logging camps cutting logs. He sold the NE quarter 19-48-7 in 1946 and bought another quarter NE 14-48-8. He had a few acres under cultivation and in 1946 he rented them to his neighbour for pasture. In 1948 he started to work in the Leduc Oilfield at different jobs. He worked for Banister Pipeline Construction Co. in Leduc and other areas in Alberta and at Fort St. John BC until the summer of 1956. Mobil Oil drilled 2 oilwells on his farm. Fred sold the NW 1-48-8 quarter in 1950.

In the fall of 1956 he married Harta Hyryk from Highvale Alberta, who was a widow with three young daughters. She brought with her a few cows and they shipped cream to Edmonton during the summer. Fred started work in 1957 for Mannix Construction and Pipeline in Drayton Valley area

and farmed at the same time. He worked there for 5 or 6 years. In 1957 he hired a brush cutting outfit, cleared about 40 acres and broke it. In the fall of 1968 my brother and I finished brush cutting the rest of the quarter, about 70 acres. In the summer of 1961 I broke most of it. In 1961 Fred applied for a homestead lease on SW 23-48-8 W5 and got it. There were two oil wells on this land. He had about 25 acres brush cut in the fall of 1962 and broke it in the spring of 1963. He built a new modern house on his home quarter in 1963. In the fall of 1966 my brother and I brush cut about 40 acres. In the summer of 1967 he had it broke. The law was that you had to have 60 acres under cultivation in 6 years in order to get the title. By this time he had about 25 beef cows and most of the machinery. He sold that quarter in 1980, sold the homeplace about 1985, had a farm sale and moved to Drayton Valley.

They had a daughter born in 1958. Fred and Harta went on a few overseas tours. Harta passed away May 15, 1992 from cancer. Fred passed away November 5, 2000.

DANIEL AND MARGARET BILLS AND FAMILY

Written by Margaret (Peggy) Wieting

Dad, Daniel Bills was born in Nottingham, England and came to Canada with his mother Violet Bills (Tucker), older brother John and sister Winnie (Jevne), when he was 2 years old. His father, William Bills had been killed in the 2nd World War and so his mother decided to join her parents and other family members, who had settled in Evansburg. There was a coal mine in Evansburg at that time, where they found employment. My grandmother later married Jack Tucker and they had four children (Leslie Tucker, Evelyn Jensen, Mae Urchyshyn and Ted Tucker). The family eventually moved to Drayton Valley and took up a homestead where the mill is now situated. As a young man, my dad spent his time farming on the Tucker homestead. He enjoyed hunting to help feed the family and playing baseball in his spare time.

Bottom, Will Greaves and brother, Violet (Tucker), Jack (Tucker), Front, John Bills, Winnie Bills (Jevne), Daniel Bills, Evelyn Tucker (Jensen), Ted Tucker, Mae Tucker (Urchyshyn), Leslie Tucker

My mother, Margaret Jenkins (Bills) was born in Tomahawk, Alberta. She was the 2nd oldest of a large family. Her parents were Helen (Ganske) and Ross Jenkins. Mom went to school in Tomahawk and later finished her Grade 9 at Seba Beach, where she lived with her aunt and uncle and worked very hard doing the farm chores for her room and board. Later she went to work in Edmonton for people who had a cottage at Seba Beach and a large home in the city. They did a lot of entertaining so mom soon learned to become a gourmet cook and is still the best cook around. Of course, she always sent part of her paycheque home to help the rest of the family.

My parents met in Drayton Valley at the store that her sister Jeanette and Chester Ball owned (later it was the Miller store) across from the Elks Hall. They were married on January 16, 1940, in Edmonton and returned to Drayton Valley to live in a small but cozy shack on the Tucker homestead. Dad continued to farm and go to work in the lumber camps during the winter. Their first child Margaret (Peggy) was born on May 15, 1942 and son William (Billy) arrived May 2, 1943. They worked hard and were able to save enough money to build a new house on their own homestead (NW 18-49-8W5) 2½ miles W. and ½ mile N. of town, where the Country Style Trailer Court is now situated. They later homesteaded the ¼ North (SW 19-49-8W5).

Margaret and Daniel Bills

Life on the farm was not easy as there was land to clear and seed and dad was away working in the lumber camps during the winter. Mom was very ambitious and did most of the farm chores by herself and she saw to it that my brother Billy and I got to school 2½ miles away. Their third child Kenneth was born on September 30, 1947.

Mom was a wonderful seamstress and in her spare time sewed most of our clothes including parkas from good used clothing. She also made warm, wool filled quilts for our beds as it could get very cold when the wood stove cooled off in the middle of the night. We had good neighbours on the farm and mom could always count on them in case of emergencies. We were always glad when dad came home for good in the spring. Of course he had lots of work with seeding crops, etc. and mom always had a huge garden and canned many quarts of veggies, chickens and wild game. She also canned wild strawberries and blueberries which we all had to help pick.

Our family also had a lot of fun in those days. On Sundays, we would often go visit our relatives or friends or they would come to our house. Our parents always played cards. There were many local picnics and ball games in Drayton and surrounding communities which we all enjoyed. There were also community dances and movies in the old Elks Hall.

Our youngest brother Gerald was born on September 8, 1954, at the beginning of the Big Oil Boom. In the spring of l955, my parents moved our 2-storey farm house into town and it is still situated at 5040 - 49 Street. We were now able to enjoy the modern conveniences of power, propane, indoor water and a warm biffy. We now lived only a couple of blocks from the school, which seemed like heaven, although the schools were in complete disorder with too many families moving into town and not enough schools. Mom now kept busy by renting out our basement rooms as did most of our neighbours. There was such a shortage of accommodation with all the oil workers moving into town. Drayton Valley was a rowdy town to say the least and as we lived close enough to the new hotel which is now known as the old hotel, you could hear the hooting and howling when the bar closed at night. I imagine there were also a few good fistfights.

Dad was now home all year round which made us all very happy. Our family was now able to look forward to an Easter vacation to Vancouver Island most years, to visit my mother's family who had moved there several years earlier. Dad bought a gravel truck and worked for Cliff VanderGrift's Sand and Gravel for many years.

My brother William (Bill) died suddenly on

Margaret and Daniel Bills. L to R, Peggy, Billy, Kenneth and Gerry Bills

December 11, 1965 and our family was devastated. My parents didn't have much interest in the farm after this and they sold the farm to Gordon Thomas and they bought a house in town situated at 4808 - 43 Street, where my mother still resides. When they first moved there, this house was on the last street going east and south and the land where the Frank Maddock High School is now situated, was Lyle Beckett's pasture. After moving back into town, my parents were able to enjoy camping and several holidays. They also spent a lot of time golfing, which soon became a favorite pastime. Dad worked for many years for the town until he retired in 1981, at age 65.

My younger brother Gerry was involved in an car accident on July 29, 1978, at age 22, which left him confined to a wheelchair. My parents spent many years caring for him and he now resides at the Extended Care at the Drayton Valley Hospital.

My dad suffered from the effects of Diabetes for many years before he became very ill and my mother cared for him until he passed away on June 23, 1986, at age 70. My mother and brother Gerry lived alone for a few years and it was a difficult time for her.

In 1993, my mother met a local man, Roy Steeves. They were married on June 14, 1994, and she began to enjoy life again. Sadly, they were only together for 2½ years, as Roy died of cancer, on December 29, 1996.

My mother has had a lot of hardships during her life but she is the strongest person that I know and she can overcome almost anything, it seems. She has a terrific sense of humor and no matter how bad things get, she can always enjoy a good laugh. She had a hip replacement done in April, 1996 and is now out there doing what she can to enjoy her life to the fullest.

Margaret (Peggy) married Raymond Wieting on February 15, 1969. They have 2 children, Melanie and Scott. Kenneth married Colleen Jackson. They have 2 children, Keith and Kent (divorced). Ken married Theresa Regenbald on May 24, 1984. Terry has 2 sons, Jason and Steven Swaren. Gerald married Teresa Townsend, divorced. They had 3 children, Rachelle, Renae and Danny.

Peggy Bills, Lenard Urchyshyn in front of her, Billy Bills, Eugene Urchyshyn, Val, Urchyshyn, Billy Urchyshyn, Eunice Urchyshyn with Martin, Gordon Tucker, Wayne Urschyshyn, Jimmy Haggerty, Sharon Haggerty and Ken Bills

Mom has 3 great-grandchildren, Skylar Beagle-Bills and Tawnie Beagle-Bills, children of Kent Bills and Tarina Beagle, and Ryan James Wieting, son of Scott and Melinda Wieting.

LILLIAN BLOCK FAMILY

Richard Irvine Block "Dick" was born April 19, 1921 at Blackfoot, Alberta to William Andrew Block and Lillian Henrietta Potter. They moved to Marshall Saskatchewan, then to Rosalind Alberta. Dick lost his father to cancer, and his mother left with six children to raise, remarried John Paul Block, better known as "J.P." or "Doc Block" who was the only veterinarian for a huge district. Inez, Esther, Bill, Lila, Dick and Bernice were soon joined by Wilda (her twin did not survive), John, and twins Bruce and Brian. Dick grew up with these brothers and sisters in the Rosalind and Daysland area.

During hard times, in his early teens, and fed up with the hard work on the farm and being adventurous, Dick hopped the trains and rode from town to town with many others in search of work. He was "on the bum" until he ran into his brother-in-law and sister who convinced him to return home with them.

To escape the heavy farm work and seeking further adventure Dick joined the Canadian Navy. He had visions of bell-bottom pants, beautiful women and cruising around the world. The reality and horror of war soon showed that to be false. He served throughout World War II where he saw a lot of active service as an anti aircraft gunner, mostly on the Corvette HMCS Kamsack.

Dick Richard Block and his brother-in-law, Tom Cockburn

Dick's eldest sister, Inez Block had received a teaching position at the Perryville School District near Drayton Valley and had moved to the Easyford District where she met and married Les Oscar. While Les was away in the army Inez had purchased the old log Easyford Store and P.O. Inez had been teaching north at the Hondo School considered to be "way out in the boonies". She boarded with people from Daysland named Brown. She was still shocked by the remote wilderness she experienced in the Drayton Valley area.

Inez taught Perryville School. A younger sister, Bernice Block recently out of the army arrived to help Inez with the store, post office and younger children. Bernice remained in the area, married Leo Hutchinson homesteading in the Easyford District. Ber and Leo raised one daughter, Janice and later retired to the town of Drayton Valley. Leo had also spent time in the army. He became known as "Uncle Buck".

Inez and Les remained in the area raising a family of eight, Robert "Butch", Ted, Carmen, Sharon, Anne, Rick, Ian and Tom Oscar. Inez and Les moved to Edmonton where she worked for A.G.T. until she retired to Alberta Beach. Then moved back near family to Drayton Valley.

Bill Block, the eldest brother, also recently discharged from the Navy came to visit sister Inez and wrote a letter to "Dick" (Richard) praising the business opportunities in the area and mentioning Ganske's Store for sale urging Dick to come join him.

After bald prairies, grain elevators and railroads a rough deeply rutted trail thirty miles through brush (Evansburg to Drayton Valley) to an area lacking all these, and not a vehicle in sight, was quite a shock. Dick had plans with friends from the Navy to meet on the West Coast and buy a fishing boat but was persuaded to put up one third to purchase Ganske's Store. His cousin Hazel lent one-third (which they soon paid back) and Bill's third. So Ganske's Store became "Block Bros, Store" in about 1945. Dick and Bill purchased a couple of town lots behind the store. The store was situated kitty-corner from the Anglican Church and cemetery on the lot the Elk's Hall is now, but closer to the street.

For a while Dick worked in the store. The 5th of May, 1950 Bill Block married Mary Kynock, daughter of one of the original settlers in the district, Dora Drake and Gordon Kynock. It was Mary's bridesmaid, Irene Dorothy Law who Dick married 27th October, 1951 in Vermilion. "Rene" was daughter of Barbara MacKenzie and Francis Law who settled here in 1938.

"Rene" stayed in a house east of the school with her family while Dick worked away in lumber camps or out on forest fires. Rene's Mom was teaching school in town, so they stayed in town while she taught (house near Plott's on which is now a car lot and the street is called 50th).

In 1952 on her birthday, May 16th Rene received a wonderful gift when first son, Ricardo Lorne was born. When Rick was a baby Dick and Rene rented the old Dodson house and farm (near where Dodson Plaza is today). One year at the Dodson house Rene canned about 128 quarts of raspberries, 60 quarts of saskatoons and 30 of blueberries.

When daughter Juanita was born March 24th 1954 they were renting a shack in Easyford that Donald Oscar had built. They didn't remain long. They said the wind blew in one side and out the other. That winter was so cold Rene kept a hot water bottle in the baby's crib at night and a blanket draped over the top. Water froze in the pail. Dick was away working.

Dick slapped together a small house at his father-in-laws farm (the farm to the south of what is now Aspenview) thinking it would be temporary and he'd later use it for a garage. It was rough lumber, 25 years old, never planed, from Drakes old

Back, L-R, Rick, Norm and Dick Block. Front, Leola, Rene and Juanita

store when Dick tore down the old store. It was moved to his lot behind Block's store. Rene having loved the farm and her animals found she did not enjoy town life.

They had this house skidded west to the homestead Dick had applied for, the N-9-49- 8-W5. A Bill Payne had originally had it. In 1955 Leola arrived followed by Norman in 1960. Rene grew to love this homestead in the "Clover Trail School District". The Clover Trail School was on the land across the road. It was more isolated and peaceful here west of town. North was the section owned by Chamberlins. Robinsons were up the hill, and Kynocks close. Later Roy Williams, an elderly bachelor, had the quarter east of them, then going east Robinsons, next Ron Smith's, Sam Baldwin, Ted Harris, Cornels, and close to town Haggertys and Urchyshyns. Tuckers and Hines were southeast of the farm. At first the road didn't even continue west past the farm, in 1998 the dust hardly settled from all the traffic, and today the road is paved.

It was a wonderful childhood for the four little ones, with a farm full of baby kittens, puppies, calves, colts etc. Weeding the garden, and berry picking weren't fun, but Rene made the best strawberry shortcake in the country, with wild strawberries, and cream from Faith and Fancy.

Dick and Rene built a little two room playhouse and garage with 2 windows, 2 doors, a small covered chesterfield and armchair – child-size, cupboard, bookshelf, table and benches. There was even a tiny coal-burning stove. It had linoleum on the floor. They were fun parents. There were lots of picnics, trips to the Pembina River – not far to the west, especially to the "Farmer's Picnic Grounds" where all the area farmers swam. The early homesteaders cleared a trail in, cut brush, and cut steps in the riverbank. It was a favorite spot where all neighbors met. It has now been taken over by a horse club and is called "Pembina River Trails".

In those days there was a lot of visiting back and forth with friends and neighbors, and many house and card parties, music and dancing. Some neighbors that come to mind are Tuckers, Kynocks, Swaps, Hines, Bozaks, Robinsons, Guzes.

Dick's brother, Bill Block and his family left for Whitecourt in 1965. He ran Pattison's Men's Wear a short time before purchasing a place at Manson's Landing on Cortes Island, B.C. in 1966. Family born while at Drayton Valley were Billy born 1954, Gordie in 1956 both born in Edmonton as Drayton Valley as yet had no hospital. Ron born in 1960 and Garry 1965. Bill and Mary are now retired in Campbell River B.C. and surrounded by family.

In 1969 Dick helped move his mother, Lillian Block out from Daysland to a new house in Drayton Valley his brother Bruce Block had built at 4762 – 49 Street. She resided there until her death in 1987. Bruce worked in New Zealand. His second marriage was there to Lorna Deakin. He kept a large farm, selling it to purchase a motel. They are retired there. Sister Esther Block (Cockburn) spent most of her married life in Edmonton, Lila (McGregor) lived half time in Florida half Ontario. Wilda Block (Jones) lived mostly in California and brother John in Calgary. Only Inez (Oscar) Bernice (Hutchinson), and Dick remained in Drayton Valley of the Block family.

In 1966 Dick and Bill sold Block's store to H. Hamdon. Dick worked as battery operator for Cities Service. This company became Can-Oxy and Dick retired from there in the mid 80's.

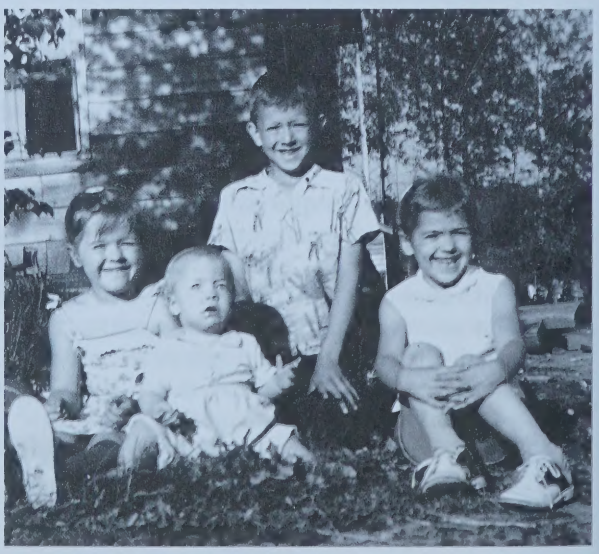
Dick Block is Santa with granddaughter Crystal Block.

Those who traveled the rodeo circuit knew Dick and Rene well for they were often there with his cousins who provided stock "Block Bro's Rodeo Stock" from Rosalind.

Dick is most remembered for his work as Santa Clause. Many of the towns and areas around Drayton and area were blessed by Dicks volunteer service as Santa. He grew his beard before Christmas, and took great pleasure in showing kids it was real. He never accepted money for the time and effort. He had two suits made. He saved all the Santa letters he got. To so many he was "the real Santa".

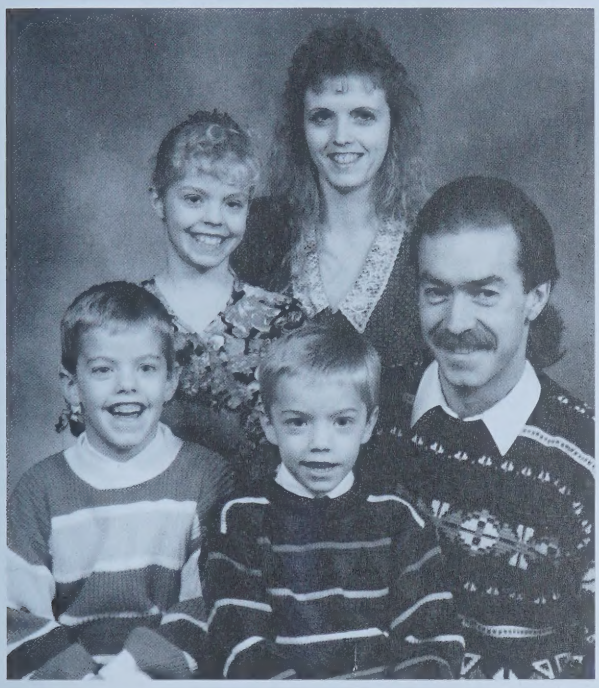
NORMAN AND DENISE (HELLEKSON) BLOCK

Norman, youngest son of Dick and Rene worked as an electrician (also has instrumentation) in Whitecourt with brother Rick several years. He married Denise Hellekson December 31st, 1982 at Whitecourt. They had Crystal Rene born January 14th, 1984 there. They made a move to Mayerthorpe starting Northern Video and renting also to Sangudo and Cold Lake. He gave it up going back to electrical work at Whitecourt. Daniel Duane was born July 25th, 1986 and Addison Richard was born January 24th 1988. He built a beautiful home at Widewater where he had a workshop. He has a talent for woodwork and has done some beautiful shelves, chests, etc. They sold to move to town, rebuilt, sold again, and are back on an acreage at Widewater in a new house. He does electrical work at a mill in Slave Lake and have a Paintball business "Ball Busters" and are doing quad tours. Sons Daniel and Addison attend school and play hockey.



Norm, Leola, Juanita and Rick Block

Norm's daughter Crystal and Juanita's son Ty and daughter Krista, attended one of the first Virtual Schools, St. Gabriel Cyber High and later Holy Family Cyber High. They had a connection to other students and their teachers via the Internet. Crystal returned to regular schooling but Ty remained doing 3 years of Junior High and 3 years of High School on the computer in this manner and Krista did 5 years.



Norm and Denise, Crystal, Daniel and Addison Block

MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER "RENE" BLOCK

By Juanita

I have wonderful memories of Drayton Valley and my growing up years here.

My parents never fought or yelled. They were very thoughtful always helping others, mostly soft spoken, cheerful.

I remember mostly rushing off the school bus and racing across the yard with my brothers and sister to tell mom everything that happened. Usually the curtains blew in a little breeze from the opened window where the baking would be cooling on the window sill. You could smell the paste wax that shone the splintery wood floors. They may have been rough but they had been rubbed with a cloth and wax so hard they gleamed in the sun that shone in.

Mom loved to read, and draw, and she could write the most interesting stories and poems. She was a great skater, and when she danced often people stopped to watch. She did have a T-shirt that said, "To heck with the housework, let's dance", but you would never actually find her housework not completed. Her glasses had to even "shine" when she did the dishes. Dance she did, for while she did other jobs she often sang and danced around the room. I don't remember her ever walking slow. When she said she'd "run" across the street, she did exactly that; she ran.

It seemed like every day there was someone my mom was helping in some way. We shared secrets and thoughts. Mom made sure she spent time with us every day and we usually had a coke if we could. She was not only a good mother; she was also like a best friend. I could tell her anything. She only sang for fun but had a really nice voice. She had a bubbly personality and quickly made friends with everyone of all ages. Both my parents were great baseball players; mom often pitched.

Dick Block with Juanita, Leola and Ricardo

I believe as I grew up I became closer to both parents and appreciate everything they did for us. It wasn't until both were gone I realized how blessed we were with the wonderful family, friends and neighbours we had. Recently with the birth of my

granddaughter, little Kaitlyn Jade, so many have helped out and brought her baby clothes and items she needed or stopped by to encourage Krista and just give the baby a hug. I am thankful we chose to stay in Drayton Valley where we are surrounded by those who are generous and caring. We were overwhelmed by how many good friends we really have.

On the 8th of March, 1983 Rene passed away having suffered one year with breast cancer. She was only 49, would have turned 50 on May 16th. She was buried in the Riverview Cemetery only a short distance from the farm where she grew up.

On the 5th day of November 1998 Dick lost his long battle against cancer. He had bladder cancer, but eventually died from lung cancer after several years of operations, treatments, and illness. He too was buried in the Riverview Cemetery.

RICK AND VERNA (BECKETT) BLOCK

Ricardo Lorne Block born 16th May, 1952 on his Mother, Rene's birthday. He became an electrician, also has instrumentation. Rick married Verna Rae Beckett 15th January 1972. Their first son Vernon Richard was born 28th July 1972 in Drayton Valley. They moved to Whitecourt where he started "Block Bros Electric". John Paul was born there on April 29th 1975 and Laurie Rae-Lynn on August 20th, 1981. Rick has given up the headaches of running his own business and does electrical work for a mill at Prince Albert, Sask. And enjoys life at their cottage at Candle Lake where he can escape the city. Verna works at a paper in Prince Albert, The Daily Herald.

Their eldest son, (Vernon) "Rich" works at a Peat Moss plant, has married Connie Bradley daughter of Roy Edward Bradley and Ruby Maebell Town, and they live in Evansburg with two sons, Richard Alexander, (Dickie) born April 4th 2000, and John Paul born August 1st 2001. Laurie attends University of Alberta in Edmonton, John lives at home with Rick and Verna.

Irene (Law) Block and son Ricardo

Verna and Rick Block

L to R, Toni Hamilton, Rene Block, Rick Block birthdays' all fell on the same day

BRUCE BOLES

Bruce Boles arrived in Dayton Valley in August, 1958 to work for Goliad, a Texas based company starting up a gas conservation project in the Pembina field. The only accommodation available in town was a two-room skidshack in a trailer park behind the Hotel. This was shared by three men working in the oilpatch.

In November, Bruce moved to the Pembalta Station #1 gas plant on the Buck Creek road. In August, 1959, Bruce and Marilyn (nee Hennig) were married.

In 1960, Kimberly Bruce was born, followed by Daryl Gordon in 1962 and Richard Carl in 1963. The family moved into the town of Drayton Valley in 1965 and that is where the boys completed their schooling. Goliad was sold to Amoco and Bruce continued on with Amoco until his retirement.

Marilyn was librarian at St. Anthony School and secretary at the hospital. Bruce and Marilyn were both active in numerous community activities in which their children were involved.

In 1981, Bruce and Marilyn moved to Fox Creek, but returned again to Drayton Valley in 1984.

Kim and Norma (nee Smerchynski) have four daughters, Lisa, Rachelle, Kirsten and Ali. They reside in Rainbow Lake. Darryl and Colleen (nee Disney) have three daughters, Justine, Marissa, and Raeanne, They live in Calgary. Rick and Jackie (nee Sweet) have a son and a daughter, Kendra and Spencer. They reside in Drayton Valley. The boys are all employed in oilfield related industries.

Upon his retirement from Amoco, Bruce and Marilyn moved to their lake property at Sundance Beach on Pigeon Lake.

LEA KRINKE BORLICK

My brother Senno, and I enrolled in Moon Lake school April 1950. We were the only students who could not speak English. All of the students of Moon Lake school helped us to learn the Canadian English word – "eh!"

I left and completed grade school in Seba Beach and high school in Edmonton. I received my nursing diploma from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, followed by graduate studies at Radcliffe, Oxford, England. Years of travel followed, and since 1972 I have lived in Washington, D.C. Three years ago I moved to this beautiful place on the lake in Reston and have commuted to D.C. for my job.

I fondly remember seeing all of my friends from Moon Lake area more than 50 years ago. Jennie was always kind to my brother Senno, and I, as we struggled to communicate in English. Eventually we learned the English language and no matter where I travelled "eh" pegged me as the Canadian.

Weather permitting we walked or rode our bicycles fives miles to school and had energy to play upon arrival. School departures were exciting horse back adventures on Jackie's horse. The horse patiently allowed four of us on his back; but once it began to gallop, two of us near the back, would tumble off like ragamuffins. And we thought it was fun!

As of June 1, 2001, I plan to retire and motor across Canada, starting with the Maritime Provinces. My son and his girlfriend plan to join me in Montreal with a sundry of friends.

I look forward to retirement with excitement and a sense of anxiety. The one-room log house school holds warm memories.

ANDREW AND JEAN BRAY

By Lily Erickson Wright

I am just one of the many descendants of the Bray family, the first (non-native) white family in the Rocky Rapids area. They say my uncle Andrew was a baby at the time and that coincides with my memory that they came from Ontario in 1906.

By the time they came west from North Bay, Ontario by train to Edmonton they were already a large family, William, George, Herbert, Stanley, Lucy, Agnes, Dorcas, Mary, Martha, and Andrew. My Uncle Vance was the first white baby to be born in the Rocky Rapids and Drayton Valley areas. Besides Uncle Vance, Sarah, Daisy and Cecil were born in Rocky Rapids.

That's a total of fourteen children, plus parents Jean and Andrew Bray. So it took a lot of hard working hands to keep everyone fed and clothed. There was no school, church, doctor, or nurse.

They tell me Grandma Bray always had a large garden, nothing fancy, potatoes, carrots, beets, cabbage, cauliflower, parsnips, onion, lettuce and green onions. No time nor money to spend on anything fancy. It was mostly vegetables they could keep in the root cellar, to last them through the long cold winter.

Standing L-R, George Bray, Dorcas Bray, Jess Beauchamp, Stanley Bray. Sitting, Agnes Bray and Lily Erickson

Grandpa Bray and sons could always get wild meat, which was extremely plentiful in those days. Their farm animals kept them in fresh eggs, butter, cream, milk, cheese, etc. Oxen did the labor instead of horses; they were probably easier to keep and later made good oxtail soup. My mother, Agnes, had the oxen driving job and guiding the plow. The whole family worked from sun up to sun down, from the time they could walk. Little ones picking roots and stones, big boys clearing the trees, big girls cooking, cleaning washing, sewing, plowing and making the oxen pull out stumps of trees, and the endless job of picking roots and stones.

Grandpa Bray worked everybody hard and ruled with an iron hand, but on Sundays they were only allowed to do absolutely necessary chores, then they were required to read the bible, do school lessons and do what ever they enjoyed. He would not allow playing cards and they all enjoyed singing and knew their lesson books by heart and the words to all the songs and poems. They were a jolly bunch in spite of the hardship. Whenever they met, through their whole lives you could always see them laughing having fun and enjoying each other's company.

There were no fences, so cattle could roam pretty far sometimes, and a lot of time was spent looking for cows and driving them home. Everything was on foot, they had no horses. Grandpa Bray used to drive out the oxen to Tomahawk or Entwistle for staple supplies. I can't say how often, probably spring, mid-summer and fall.

When he first came from Ontario Grampa left the family on the river flats in Edmonton while he and the big boys cut a road to the homestead. I wish I knew if this was from Entwistle or Tomahawk, although the train could have taken them to Entwistle. I know I always heard the stories of them driving oxen and cattle out to the homestead. This was 1906-1907. They lived in a series of log cabins all joined in a long row. This was the home farm inherited by Uncle Vance Bray, which he passed on to his daughter Lucy and her husband Orville, who still live there to this day. The house they live in has been there ever since I can remember and I'm 68 years old. Grandma Bray lived there, also Uncle Vance and his wife Maggie, who was a Jacknife from a Cree family from Violet Grove.

There was no school for the Bray family to go to, but Grandma Bray taught them, and the older ones taught the younger ones. They all had beautiful penmanship and could write the nicest letters you could get from anybody. They were all avid readers and did so their whole lives. Grandma used to write stories and send them away for publication. I don't know where she sent them but they earned a little extra money. The family loved music and singing and I'm sure if there had been money for instruments there would have been some musicians among them.

Standing, Dorcas and Mary Bray. Sitting, Agnes and Lucy Bray

When it came time to marry there was no one for the older boys to marry. Bert (1889-1971) and Stanley (1889-1964) remained bachelors. Willie (1892-1922) died from the flu epidemic when he was around twenty years old and was buried on the NW corner of Uncle Stan's place. When I was growing up there was a little fence built around the grave, no name but everyone knew who was there. Cecil died as an infant. George (1890-1952) got his wife from across the North Saskatchewan River, either Berrymoor or Breton.

Europeans started drifting into the area for homesteads and snatched up those hard working Bray girls like hot cakes off a griddle. Al the girls married men 15 to 20 years older then themselves. Lucy (1894-1976) lived her entire life in Rocky Rapids, married a Swede, Paul Wikander and had 6 children. Agnes (1897-1970) lived in Edmonton from 1942, married a Swede, Edwin Erickson, and had 3 children. Dorcas (1900-1970), lived in Edmonton from 1940, married an Englishman, Jess Beauchamp, and had 5 children. Mary (1902-1975) lived in Edmonton from 1942, married a Scotsman, Gilbert McCall, and had 7 children. Martha (1904-

1975) lived her entire life at Rocky Rapids, married a Swede, Karl Erickson, and had 6 children. Daisy (1912-1977) lived her married life near Violet Grove, married an American, Edward Hines, and had 7 children. Sarah (1910-1980) was born disabled and could neither walk nor talk, lived in Red Deer. Andrew (1905-1987) married Ruby Young, a girl who had come out to housekeep for someone and had 6 children. He sold his farm in 1934 and became a lumberjack. Vance (1906-1976), lived his life in Rocky Rapids, married a local native Cree girl, Maggie Jacknife, and had 4 children. Grandma and Grandpa Bray had a total of 44 grandchildren.

Andrew Bray was born in Goderich, Ontario, of British parents around 1863. Jean McCartney was born in Scotland in 1870 and came to Canada when she was fourteen or so. She was fifteen years old when she married in 1885 in Northern Ontario and went on to have a child approximately every two years for the rest of her child bearing years. Andrew Bray died in 1934 at the age of 71. Jean Bray died in January 1945 at the age of 75.

As you can see, I could write my own book about the Brays, and I hope you can get something of interest from these pages.

L-R, Mary Bray, Jack Anderson, Agnes Bray, Bert Bray

BACK WHEN MAN HAD TIME TO THINK

The Dennis Brewster Story
NE¼ 28-47-6 W5M
By Valerie Brewster, with input from the whole family

Dennis Brewster was born on the banks of the Strawberry Creek near Telfordville, Alberta, on April 4, 1929. He was the youngest of ten children. Deep inside this child was the dream to be his own boss and to have a homestead of his own.

He grew up in the era where horse and wagons were still used, and the motorized world was just beginning. He had a knack for fixing the unfixable, and he could create a working something from nothing. Many times over the years on the homestead would his abilities keep our world revolving.

He moved his young family, wife Pearl, daughter Valerie, 5 at the time, and son Keith, not yet 2, to the homestead in the Buck Creek area in July, 1961. He left behind the bright city lights of Edmonton, and possible job prospects for the unknown yet to unfold at the end of the world. Mom had vowed she would never live more than seven miles from any town, and here she found herself sixteen miles from Breton, with only a bulldozer trail for a road.

We lived on Edgar Leeder's quarter in a small, one room shack for six weeks until our own skidshack could be moved to our own homestead quarter. The skidshack came from one mile north of our quarter, and had previously been owned by Bob Grant of Telfordville. It was relocated from a sawmill sight.

Upon our arrival at the homestead, Dad discovered that 25 acres had been cleared by cat by mistake. The catwork was meant for the next quarter south. This clearing by error was to become the yardsite. Dad's first major achievement was a decent water well. Without a good well, he vowed not to stay. He had hauled water behind a team of horses for too many years already. The drilling of that well proved to be an entire summer's project for Johnson's Drilling from Winfield. Blue sand proved to be a nuisance then, and remains so nearly forty years later.

After the well proved itself, and the water tested soft, then cement forms were set and the foundation for our home was started. The cement was poured October 6th and near month's end, we moved into our unfinished home. We had four insulated walls, a roof that didn't leak, and a wood heater. We had three south windows covered in thick opaque plastic. They showed light in, but we could not see out. Dave Freeson was an old friend of Dad's from Edmonton who helped build the house.

The lumber for the floor came from Gordon Gillespie's sawmill and the roof lumber came from Clint Gardner's sawmill. The area had several sawmills, and the lumber business had boomed long before we arrived.

Our first neighbours included Ken and Jean McCulloch, Bob and June McCulloch, Lloyd and Mabel Nelson, Ben and Dora Anderson, and Dave and Kaye Johnston. It was a time for neighbours to help neighbours – time and equipment sharing were not uncommon.

We moved out to the homestead in Dad's old 1948 Plymouth, four-door car. I remember standing on the hump in the backseat floorboards, hanging over the front seat with my mouth open so the bumpy road made my voice vibrate. I can only remember one road trip to Drayton Valley in that car. Dad also had an old pickup, a 1949 Studebaker, which he later traded to Albert Hughes for a seed drill. The truck box from the Studebaker found its way to the back of an old red Fargo pickup. He was in style with a two-ton truck long before their time.

Milking cows and shipping cream, along with some pigs and chickens made up the workload and livelihood of our existence. Putting up enough firewood for year-round use was a forever job. Seemed like keeping the woodbox full was a forever kind of job as well.

The hailstorms in the spring/summer of 1962, produced hailstones the size of hen's eggs and made short work of our plastic covered windows. As fast as Mom could bend over to scoop them up with her dustpan, more were pelting her in the backside as she bent over. This is Happy Homesteading!!

Valerie started school in September, 1962, in Buck Creek's newer two-room school. The grades went from 1 to 6, with 6 later going to Breton. Mrs. McGavin taught grade 1 that year, Mrs. Dorothy Vowk taught me grade 2, and Mrs. Mary Seiben taught grades 3, 4 and 5. The first school bus year was tough. The road was only a bulldozer trail on the road allowance. Ross Williams from Breton contacted the County of Leduc that we were living on the homestead, and a road was needed for the school bus. The County came in, and only one mile of road did they build. It fell short of the driveway end about 600 feet. Dad had to keep his tractor in the yard for school bus time so he could drag the bus around in the muck. One day he said his tractor would be unavailable, so when the bus got stuck (loaded with kids) it had to sit. Everyone was late getting home that night, and it didn't take the County long to come back and build the road past the driveway end, one school bus length.

Homestead and home improvements were a continuing thing, right along with milking cows and shipping cream. Dad had to clear 10 acres of land per year to a total of 60 acres, and be in residence in a house on a foundation. The cream cheques bought the groceries and paid for a 45 gallon drum of purple gas each week. We had no refrigeration to keep the cream sweet at #1 grade, but a hole in the ground worked just as well.

Hailstones could wipe out crop in a matter of minutes, and a rabbit plague in winter could destroy and devour an entire winter's worth of feed and bedding. In the winter of 62/63 it was said the road from Buck Creek to Drayton was fur lined, the rabbits were so bad.

No one could afford to lose, ruin, or waste even a single scrap. Baby chicks were incubated and hatched in a kerosene incubator set up in Keith's room. A quilt was hung over the window, and no running or jumping or door slamming was allowed for the three-week incubation period. These same baby chicks were then brooded in a homemade brooder in the front room until they were about three weeks old and could be moved out into an unheated chicken house. By the end of their 3-week stint in the living room, they smelled like they should move out. This was a springtime ritual for many years. Baby calves were also brought into the fireside to be warmed if they had arrived during the night in a snowdrift. How lucky for us they didn't require three weeks by the stove, too!

Dad had a pioneer spirit and knew how to keep things working. If he needed something and did not have it, he would then build what he needed with what limited resources he had. He spent many hours dreaming of ways to make Mom's life on the homestead a little easier. We never had to haul water in or out. It was pumped into two 45-gallon barrels in the attic. We had a quart sealer on a string to act as a float, and when the weight reached the line on the wall, the pump could be shut off. Several times the float watcher got distracted and the barrels were overfilled, and a mess surely followed. Hot water tubing was threaded through the firebox of the wood cookstove and routed into a hot water tank. The entire system relied on gravity.

Sour cream would be curing into cottage cheese on the back of the warming oven on the stove, the smell of fresh bread from the oven, a never ending pile of baking powder biscuits, homemade jams, fresh milk, sweet farm cream on fresh wild fruit that was plentiful and there for the picking, wild meat cooked to perfection, a cellar full of homegrown potatoes, a woodbox full of wood, jars of canned fruit and vegetables in the cellar too, along with the knowledge there was more where that all came from, made a man happy.

As a child Keith, used to follow Dad like a shadow and he soaked up the learning and knowledge that Dad had the patience to share. Most of Dad's farming equipment was held together with twine or wire, or maybe prayers and good luck. He acquired a 1945 John Deer tractor on steel wheels by plowing and discing 20 acres to make it crop ready for Ian McKay. He used an International 1 bottom plow. Dad did the work and Ian gave him the tractor for wages. Dad and Keith later acquired another of Ian's

tractors. This one was a small Cockshutt, and forever nicknamed "PeeWee".

Owning farm equipment on shares was common too. The threshing machine was purchased from Ed Goertzen and Dad and Art Zittlau were equal partners. Upon Art's death in 1977, Dad bought Art's share from Barbara. That was just the homestead way.

Cutting grain, stooking bundles and stacking hay all required sunshine. By everyone pitching in, a man could sure make hay while the sun shone, as the saying goes. We had more than enough rainy days in the early 1960's. Nowhere on Earth could it rain like it did in Buck Creek. Neighbours and neighbouring were all a necessary part of our social structure, and everyone pitched in to help the other. There was time to work, and a time to play.

Keith started school in Buck Creek in 1965,and he finished his education in Breton with graduation in June, 1977. He spent some time in the oilfield and opted for heavy duty mechanic apprentice with Big Country Machinery in Drayton Valley. He got his ticket in 1982, got hired by Amoco and took a transfer to Fox Creek, Alberta, and married Cindy Holmgren of Lindale, Alberta that same summer.

The price of replacing worn out farming equipment and the loss of the cream quota, along with a no profit margin on the farm, Dad made the difficult decision to sell the cows and go out to work. It was 1971. He worked in the oilfield for three years, and it was a job he hated every day. In 1974, he went back into the drywall/construction industry. This was the trade he had left behind in Edmonton nearly 20 years previous. He worked with Ben Leeder for several years and then with a couple of other partners until 1992. He worked on many houses in several surrounding areas. His hay land was farmed on shares for many years, and later fenced for pasture rental. One year his share of the hay was worth $500. He sold his share to a friend and neighbour, and bought some sucker rod and tin siding with the proceeds. He then built what we called a mini quonset type building to be used for a garage. He then asked the hay buyer what he had to show for his $500 spent? Dad had a shelter and the hay buyer had a pile of horse(shit). The telephone lines came through the country in 1966, and we enjoyed the good old party lines for nearly 25 years. Calgary Power (Rural Electrification) was not to arrive until 1977. Until then a 32 volt light plant was used in conjunction with a windcharger. When wind didn't blow to provide free power, then the light plant was started. Soon 32 volt items were harder and harder to come by, and change was inevitable. Dad always said change was good for a guy, as long as he made progress with it. The house was heated by wood almost entirely. At one point a diesel stove was installed to pick up when the wood stove went out. Wood had to be hauled and cut into stove length pieces of firewood, and piled for easy winter access. One year Dad even built his woodshed out of tree length firewood, and always said he could burn his shed if he had the need to. He built a wood conveyor that piled the wood in a pile, or dropped it into the box of a pickup truck. Natural gas was installed in 1993, and wood heat was missed by all. There is nothing to warm the hands or the hearts like a wood fire.

Dennis dreamed that his homestead, finally deeded to him in 1970, would someday become a playground for his children's children and their children. His blood, sweat and tears, along with his heart and his soul were put into that land.

He subdivided three acres for Valerie, and helped to build her young family a home there. By now he had grandson Dallas to shadow his movements and pass on the knowledge to. Dad built (invented) an elevator lift that operated in my house from the basement to the upstairs. It was simple hydraulics, gravity, and electricity. It came up by way of electric motor and went down by gravity. The entire system was based on Hydraulics, and the fluid he used was water. This eliminated the fear of water source contamination. The elevator worked successfully for many years but could not pass the government's strict rules and restrictions for home elevators, so it had to be removed and replaced with stairs before the acreage could be sold. Dad and I also designed and built my kitchen cupboards. He was forever looking for a better way to do things that would make my home or my car more accessible. Mom and I both have rheumatoid arthritis, and making things easier for us was always on his mind.

Another proud accomplishment on the homestead was the building of Keith's airstrip on Brewster's Farm. Keith got his pilot's license in 1985 and bought Ordan Kisser's 1974 Cessna 172. Dad never turned down an airplane ride when offered. The plane and the airstrip surely shortened the distance between Fox Creek and Buck Creek. Keith and his family spent 11 years in Fox Creek. By now his family boasted of 3 boys, Ian, Trevor and Owen. They always wanted a transfer home from the north country. This was finally realized after a two year stop over in Slave Lake, AB. They built a beautiful house next to the airstrip in 1996.

Over the years, on the homestead, Dad invented and built many things. He had no heated workshop to speak of, so Mom's front room became the workshop over many a winter. He made several pieces of

wood furniture which are treasures today. Among some things he made the list includes a potato planter/hiller. It was an idea copied from one Grandpa Nelson had made. (Grandpa Nelson being Lloyd Nelson's father). Dad built a replica and improved as he went. I remember acres and acres and acres of potatoes to be picked up, after being surfaced with a potato digger. He made wood carders both hand and electric, chicken pluckers were built from used cream cans for the cylinder and rubber fingers attached. He made 20 spinning wheels from bicycle wheels, a spike twister, and a stripper for the removal of scrapers from used sucker rods that ended up in the oilfield junk piles. He later cut these rods into 6' length and welded the twisted spikes on to them, and voila, a once in a lifetime fencepost was born. It was recycled, reuseable, and refenceable. Several oilfield leases in this area are fenced with his fenceposts, as well as several farms, his included. Dan Stephenson was his first partner in this venture and later two grandsons, Dallas and Ian, got in on the welding and the sales. Another legacy passed on.

Dad and Dallas built a creation they named 'the DEAN STER' for both of them. It evolved from a pipe frame and Kohler motor, rope started, Datsun transmission and motorbike tires on the front. It provided many rides, and many miles of entertainment. It is still in operation today, and has undergone some modifications along the way. Another work of art began with a Case tractor frame to which he added a Datsun motor and transmission, and it became known as 'the Flintstone tractor'.

Of the twenty spinning wheels made from old bicycle tires, one went to an isolation post at Kitimat, BC, and another went to Germansen's Landing in northern BC, to a trapline cabin. It was eventually lost in a fire, but the lady returned to purchase a second one. The one from Kitimat is now in the museum in Smithers, BC.

One could always count on Dad to help a body in need. Many things were brought to him to be fixed and many times he came up with the answers needed. He was a great listener if the need arose. The coffee was always on, and no one left the table hungry. If they did, it was through no fault but their own. He did not take kindly to those peddling religion door to door. That was just his homestead way.

As homestead kids, we sure never knew we were poor or deprived of anything. We never went cold or hungry or naked. Dad always said, "the roof don't leak and the bill collectors aren't knocking on the door". He used to scoff at those who complained about the roads. He could remember moving to Buck Creek when there were no roads. No meat was ever too tough to chew. Things would have been a helluva lot tougher if we had no meat.

Dad passed away in October, 1993, after a brief struggle with lung cancer. He died knowing the dream of his homestead was a reality. His land had heard motorbikes, go carts, ski doos, airplanes, cow bells, and children's laughter. Pearl and Keith are the 'keepers' of the homestead now. Valerie lives in Drayton Valley to be near her four handsome grandsons. Her daughter Shannon has two boys, as does son Dallas. Dallas married Kathy Parker from Buck Creek and has worked at Weyerhaeuser since he was 17. Shannon will be married to Clay Garrett of Louisville, Kentucky, by publication date, and they intend to keep their home in Drayton Valley.

JOHN A. (JACK) AND KATHY BRIGHT

Written by Kathy Bright

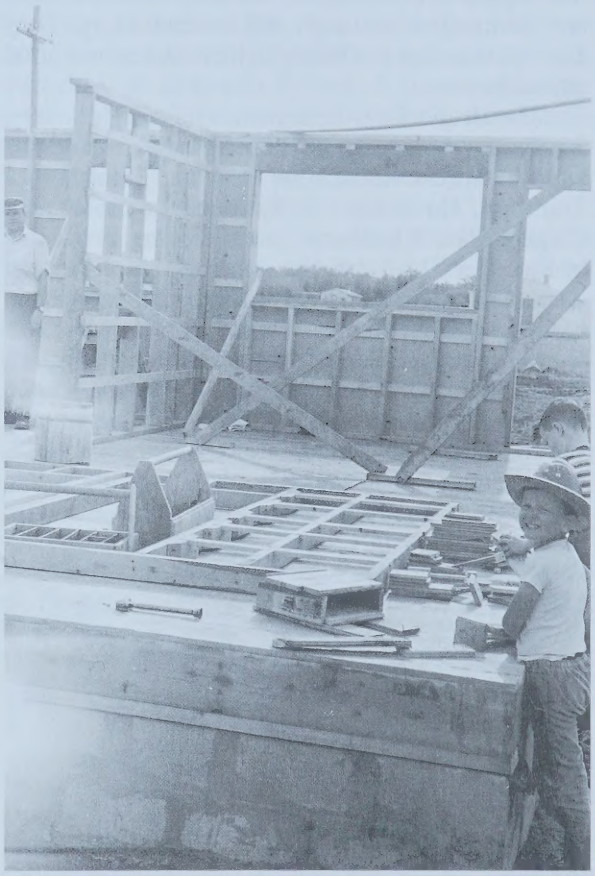
The Bright family moved from Devon, Alberta in 1957. Jack was the Postmaster of Devon and was transferred to Drayton Valley. The postoffice in Drayton Valley had been in Millers grocery store and when oil was discovered and the town and population expanded, a postoffice was built, and more staff hired.

Drayton Valley was still in its infancy at this time, and while some houses had been built, accommodation was at a premium, and many people lived in skid shacks and trailers. Like most people who moved to Drayton Valley, one had to go through a pioneering stage, and the Brights were no exception, renting an 18 x 18 foot skid shack in Dodsons trailer court, which cost sixty dollars a month rent, the only facility was electric light. The gas stove had to be converted to propane, and water was only available from a pump, half a block away. The shack was heated with an oil stove, which was an experience in itself, as on a windy night it was apt to blow out. When the Brights moved in, it was the beginning of February, the snow was very deep, and the temperature well below zero. It was no easy task fitting everything into the shack, and the first weekend Jack purchased lumber and built a porch onto the back of the shack to accommodate the washing machine and to store some things which would not fit into the shack. Jack also built the boys' single beds into bunk beds and we were able to store last season's canning under this bed. Some things were also stored in the attic.

When spring came, the Brights sold their house in Devon, which had been rented, and bought a lot, which at that time was in the middle of a field south of the Catholic Church. This was the farthest the town went at this time, and soon after the road was made in front of this lot, and the hospital construc-

Waiting for the ferry, Cathy, Jack, John and Richard Bright 1957

tion was started. Jack rented a cement mixer and construction of the house began. Footings were put in, a foundation of cement blocks, and when this was completed, a Muttart Prefabricated house was delivered. The walls came in prebuilt sections, and as each wall went up a partition was fitted in, so that by the time all the walls were up, the partitions were also in place. It took two days to shingle the roof. It was a slow job because Jack and Kathy were doing it, and it was a first for them. The boys, John and Richard, then aged ten and six years old helped in their way, had their own hammers and nailed in sub flooring, etc. The house took some time to complete inside, as the Brights moved in when the subflooring was in place, and finished the house inside whilst living in it. This house had no basement, and after two years it was decided to sell it, and build another one with a basement. The house was sold to the School Board, and construction commenced on another house on 45 Street and 50 Avenue. This time the basement was built by Bruno Laub who was a Master Craftsman in Brick and Cement Block work. A Nelson Prefabricated Home was purchased, which again came in prebuilt sections, the only difference being that the partitions had to be individually built and put in place. Jack was not a carpenter by trade, but was a very good carpenter in his own right. The family moved into the basement, and finished the main floor before moving up.



Bright's house being constructed

Kathy Bright shingling the roof

Now the family was settled, and were active in many different aspects of the community. Jack was a Rotarian, also active in the Anglican Church, helping to build the Rectory, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and on the Group Committee of the Scouts. Kathy was a Sunday School teacher, and was a Brownie Leader for ten years. The boys attended and graduated from school.

In 1967, Canada's Centennial Year, Jack and Kathy escorted twenty four students to Expo Montreal, also spending some time in Chicoutime, Quebec, on an exchange student programme. This was a great opportunity for the two cultures to mix, and exchange friendships and understanding. They also spent a day in Ottawa, which was also a good experience.

The Bright boys both married local girls. John worked for Amoco for a while, then went to train as an Air Traffic Controller for the Ministry of Transport. He worked at Springback Airport near Calgary, then Whitehorse, and after further training in Radar, worked in Edmonton at the International Airport. He lived in Devon for some years, then moved to Edmonton, where he now resides, still working at the Edmonton International Airport. Richard joined the Royal Bank upon leaving school, and worked in Edmonton, Brooks and Calgary. He went through the University of Calgary on a scholarship from the Royal Bank, graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree. He then worked for the Royal Bank in Calgary, Toronto, Los Angeles and New York. He is currently living in Ottawa, and is the CEO for the Credit Union there. He has two daughters, who at the time of writing are twenty and sixteen, and living in Calgary.

Drayton Valley was a wonderful town to bring up a family, as one knew the parents of the childrens' friends. It was wonderful also to see the development of the town as time went by. Beautiful homes were built, schools constructed, paved streets, curling rink, and all kinds of businesses and facilities.

Jack passed away in 1975 after battling lung cancer for two years. Kathy moved to Calgary in 1981, but has many happy memories of Drayton Valley.

RAYMOND AND DARLEEN BROADBENT (TUCKER)

Darleen was born October 8, 1946, second child of Leslie and Louise Tucker. I remember Drayton Valley as Block's Store, the original Elks Hall, Miller's Store, Eldorado School, Eric Edholm's Red & White Store and Grandma Tucker's variety store. I can remember walking to school from our home (SW 8-49-7 W5) where the Weyerhaeuser plant is located. We walked straight north to the corner where Pembina Pipeline's office is today, then east and up that long "sand hill" to Eldorado School. When I was in grade 1, Gord and I walked with Jean and Joyce Herndon, neighbors from across the road. I particularly remember being late one morning and running (at least to me it seems that we ran – or they ran and I was dragged) all the way to school holding hands with Jeanie and Joycie. I remember Eunice and Wayne Urchyshyn riding their horse to school from up by the current Country Style Trailer Court. There was a barn on the school grounds where the horse stayed during the day. There was also a woodshed in which we often played. Mrs. Edith Deby was my teacher in grades 1, 2 and 3. When in grade 1, I refused to go up to work on the blackboard – in front of the whole class – grades 1 to 4 – she physically pulled me out of my desk and up to the front. I resisted all the way and my big brother, Gord, in grade 3 went home and tattled. The older students would be assigned to work with younger students and I remember in grade two having to write numbers from 1 to 1000. Grade 4 student, Janie Schoen (Zander) was my helper, obviously the beginning of her teaching career which lasted until 1998. Then, oil was discovered. Single grade classrooms, school buses on our country roads and portable after portable hauled onto the school grounds.

The original Eldorado school building before it was demolished in 1998

Things changed. Mom and dad built a new house in 1954. Within a few years, we got electricity. No more coal oil and gas lamps, gas iron, cooking and heating water on the wood stove and no more dirty, black coal dust throughout the house every time a load of coal was dumped into the coal room in the basement. I believe that was one of my mother's greatest irritations. Even worse, though, were the torrents of dust which engulfed our home from the very busy gravel/dirt road which ran by. After a requested visit by the Minister of Highways, the road was paved. What a blessing! Next, we got

indoor, running water. I remember my Auntie May Urchyshyn joking about what "dirty" people we were if we were "going to the toilet in the house". No more Christmas orange wrappings! We could now use more than one inch of water in the bathtub – but barely more, our dad was very cautious about wasting power and water. Finally, the telephone. Our number was X805 and I think our ring was a long, a short and a long. It rang constantly as everyone on the line had a different ring. At times there were six or seven households on our party line. There was supposed to be a 5 minute time limit, but my older brother and his girlfriends – enough said!

As kids at home, we always seemed to have something to do. We didn't know the word "bored" or what it meant. We had a big garden and I can remember picking and shelling tubs of peas. I remember once, when mom was very sick, we wanted to help, so we picked all of the beets for her. We cut the tops off – right down into the beet. They bled to death!

Darleen, Tom and Iona Tucker shelling peas in 1962

Most of our cousins lived in the area and we visited often. Connie, Helen and Myrtle Johnson would meet Iona and I down at the creek which separated our farms (between Weyerhaeuser and the Power Plant) where we would shovel paths on the ice and skate in the winter or play on the little islands in the summer. I have fond memories of our times together – we dubbed ourselves, "The Girls of the True Blue". We went into Town to skate several evenings a week during the winter. Dad was caretaker of the hockey rink (located across the street from today's Town Office) and we would skate on the open ice skating rink at the Rotary Park. I can remember hurrying from the skating rink to the hockey rink to meet dad and be off the streets before the curfew siren sounded – and my blood running cold if it blared while we were still en route.

In Sept, 1963, I registered at McTavish Business College in Edmonton. After completing the course, I worked in Edmonton until the May of 1969. I spent 4 months that summer in Europe, then returned to DV and worked in the Town Office until Dec. 1970. I married Raymond Broadbent on Sept. 5, 1970. We lived in Edmonton until coming back to Drayton Valley in 1976. I stayed home with our children until the fall of 1984 when I went to work part-time at Eldorado School. I began attending school at this location (original classroom demolished in 1998) in 1952! This is my 16th year "back at Eldorado" but now I am the Secretary and I don't have to run up the sand hill to get there.

Raymond was born December 28, 1944. He is the third child of Eddie and Hazel Broadbent and was raised at Genessee, Alberta. He attended school in Genessee and Thorsby. In 1960 he moved to Edmonton and worked in a feed mill. From 1963 to 1970, he worked in oilfield construction in Northern Alberta and apprenticed as a gas fitter in Edmonton. After marrying, he worked for Economy Heating in Edmonton until 1976, at which time he purchased a farm west of Violet Grove (SE 16-48-8 W5) where

L to R, Garett, Darleen, Raymond and Stacey Broadbent

the family has since resided. The first few years in DV, Raymond did plumbing and heating as well as farm. For the past 20 years, he has done carpentry/building construction and farming.

Raymond and Darleen have two children – daughter Stacey, born June 10, 1973 and Garett, a son, born April 8, 1976. At present (Dec 1999) Stacey is teaching school in the Delta School Division and living in Ladner, BC. Garett is completing his degree in Agriculture at the University of Alberta.

Ironical as it may be, my dad, after he was 70 years old, cut and prepared logs with which he built a 20' x 30' two-story log cabin. It has a wood stove, no phone and an outdoor biffy – and we all love to go back in time as we gather there for parties, celebrations and family get-togethers.

CLYDE AND NELLIE BROWN

Submitted by Helen Anderson

Clyde and Nellie Brown were married on Nov. 14, 1931, at Czar, Alberta.

They arrived in the Drayton Valley area in 1937, with three children, Helen, Dalton and Robert. My dad worked in the sawmills. He took out a homestead on the L. Neff place. When my folks left Drayton Valley and returned to the Czar area, they had three more children. Phyllis was born in Edmonton, Lucille and Beth were born at the Neff place.

It was a struggle in those days. My dad walked to and from the sawmills. My mom had very good gardens, milked cows and had a few chickens. So we were never hungry. She was a great cook.

In the fall, the Indians came for their hunting trip west of Drayton Valley and they always made camp on the corner of our place. The golf driving range is on that corner now. They would come and get my mom's only good butcher knife, and would return it with moose meat. My brother Dalton and I started school in Drayton Valley.

The nurses at the Anglican Church Mission were very good to all the families in the area. They were my Mom's doctor and nurse when Lucille and Beth were born. At Christmas they had a gift and clothes for all the children in the area. I still have a doll that was given to me at Christmas. I was eight years old. We had very good neighbors: the Wickander's, Tom Kjorlien , Floyd Combs families and many more. These neighbors were always there if you needed help. Mrs. Wickander made good cookies.

My dad and mom sold their farm at Czar and returned to Drayton Valley in 1954. My mom did cleaning for City Service and worked at the Drayton Valley Hotel. Dad worked for Oilfield Services, then later did janitor work for the Bay Store until he retired. They made their home in Brooks, Alberta after retirement.

My dad passed away November 20, 1979. Mom passed away January 18, 1996.

LES AND OLGA BROWN

Submitted by Olga Brown

Les and Olga Brown and son Bradley came to Drayton Valley from Mannville, Alberta in 1961. Les had purchased a service station.

Les's parents, Alex and Hattie Brown had farmed in the Quinte area near Viking, Alberta. Les was the oldest of seven children. He attended Quinte School. After quitting school at 16, he worked on the family farm, for other farmers, at a lumber camp in Edson and Alder Flats. In 1949, his dad purchased the Ambler ranch south of Mannville and Les took it over.

Olga was born to Harry and Irene Kurylo from the Fidelty area north of Mannville. She was the oldest of six-children, the youngest being triplets. She attended Bloomington School and later the family moved to Mannville where she took her High School. She took a one- year teacher training course and taught in all the schools where she had once lived.

Les and Olga were married in 1952. They lived on the ranch until 1959, when the government bought the land for the Minburn Community Pasture. Then they moved to Mannville where Les worked and Olga taught school.

In 1961, they bought a service station in Drayton Valley. Two years later Les changed the name of the service station from Stewart Motors to L. B. Motors. In 1966 he built a 3 stall wand-type car wash and added another stall in 1967. In 1969, he built the new Esso 3-bay service station which still exists today. The service station was leased to Stan Kurylo for two years, then Les sold it back to Imperial-Oil. Stan continued to lease it. The car wash was sold to Gordon Hamilton in 1974. Les worked at various jobs for four years, then in 1979 bought a gravel truck. He operated it for five years. He retired in 1985 for health reasons.

When Les and Olga first moved to Drayton Valley, the town was booming. They lived above the old garage for a year before they were able to find a house.

One of the first purchases made for children were rubber boots and puddlers. It seemed to rain continuously. It was a common occurance for the children to get stuck in the mud and someone would have to rescue them and/or their rubber boots.

Olga relates the story of how desperately the school needed teachers. They had been in town one short week. Very little was unpacked. She had met only one other family. Then she had a phone call from Mr. Tom McManus. Could she come and sub in grade 9? Well, she had been teaching grade 1, so she turned that job down. A few days later Mr. John Gray phoned. Could she sub in grade 1? He didn't ask her what qualifications she had, did she have any references, how long had she been teaching etc. They just needed a warm body in the classroom. After six months of subbing, Olga took a full-time position.

She went on to get her degree through summer school and evening credit courses. She taught for a total of thirty years in the Mannville area and Drayton Valley Elementary Schools. She retired in 1985 to pursue other interests.

Bradley was born in 1959 while they lived in Mannville. Janice was born in 1963 in Drayton Valley. Both children graduated from Frank Maddock High School in Drayton Valley and went on to University. Brad earned a Physical Education degree and Janice a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing.

During High School, Brad was active in the band program and also taught piano. He enjoyed all sports. He played hockey and was on the Clippers team when it won the Provincial Midget Championship in 1976. After High School, he enjoyed swimming, tennis, golf, scuba diving, hiking, skiing and more. He coached gymnastics and was trainer for the U of A Gymnastics team. After university he worked as a social care worker with disadvantaged teens in Edmonton. He took a winter off and went to Nelson, B.C. to work on the ski hill. While there Brad and some of his friends drove to Fernie to ski for a weekend. The car hit some black ice. Brad and another young lad were killed. He passed away January 23, 1987.

Janice also was involved in many activities. She took part in the school band, played the piano, enjoyed bicycling and skiing. Upon graduating from the U of A, she worked at the Edmonton General Hospital and the University Hospital. On a trip to Victoria she was introduced to sailing and fell in love with it. She moved to Victoria in 1988 and continued nursing. She took sailing lessons, bought her own sailboat and now is living aboard her second boat. She charters and sails regularly and races in regattas in her spare time. Periodically she goes to the Caribbean where she and her friends rent sailboats for a holiday. In her work time she nurses with the Capital Health Region in Victoria as part of a Quick Response Team nurse.

Les and Olga have been active in the Drayton Valley community. Les was president of the Rebel Hockey team in 1971-73 and made many, many trips, both with the Rebels and whatever team Brad was on. He sponsored a Bantam Hockey team called the L B Esso Tigers. He was on the executive of the DV Minor Hockey Association for several years. He was a staunch supporter of Hockey. He enjoyed looking after the yard and was one of the first to clean his walk in the winter or rake the yeard in the summer.

Since retiring Olga has kept busy with her activities. She tutored for Adult Literacy for ten years. She has been part of the Drayton Valley Agricultural since 1975 and Fair Coordinator since 1978. She is also deeply committed to the Alberta Women's Institutes (W.I.). It is an educational and service club. She joined as a bride, but had to give it up while she was teaching and raising a family. She was a W.I. Girl's Club leader for seven years. She has served on the local executive, has been a Constituency Convener and is now a District Director.

Les and Olga kept busy in their senior years. They have traveled as much as possible, seeing most of Canada, many places in the USA, a trip to Australia, twice to New Zealand, and a visit to the British Isles.

Les was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus in 1997. After chemo and radiation therapy, he had surgery to remove the esophagus. He passed away in July, 1998.

Olga continues to live in Drayton Valley. It is a very friendly community and has been a good place to live and raise a family.

JAMES BROWNBILL

Mr. James Brownbill was born at St. Helen's, Lancashire, England, on August 17, 1878. Prior to immigrating to Canada, as a British settler, he married and had one son, William Brownbill. Without the exact date being unknown he immigrated to Canada between the years 1909 to 1911. He departed from Liverpool, England, as a widower on the White Stag Passenger Line, possibly on the ship called the "Megantic". His arrived in Montreal, Canada and transported himself to Alberta via the Canadian Pacific Railway, along with a Mr. William Pilkington, also of St. Helen's, England, and both obtained work for at least one season with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Both men were hired as teamsters and worked on the railway line out of Strathmore, Alberta. During their short period of employment with the railway both men travelled to the Town of

Edmonton and worked also as teamsters for a coal company operating out of the Town of Strathcona (across the river from Edmonton).

During the spring of 1911, Mr. Brownbill and Mr. Pilkington travelled to Power House, Alberta, some three days distance by wagon from Edmonton, and obtained employment with the Edmonton Heat and Power Company, building a dam. The company having been established on December 17, 1909 and owned by a Sir John Jackson, living in England. The firm had an Edmonton office managed by Mr. M. MacLean, who employed recent British immigrants to work on the proposed construction of a hydro power station south of Rocky Rapids, Alberta. The site was situated on the North Saskatchewan River.

The city was little more than a tent town, but operated year round. Although originally called Power House, through a change in location and with the development of farming, by 1920 the name of Power House had been changed to Drayton Valley. (The name being chosen by Mr. John Drake, who served as the settlement's Postmaster and whose family came from Drayton Valley, England.) They eventually sent for the women and children. They left Liverpool, England on the ship called the "Emerald Isle" for this new land. The women and children were met by Uncle Bill Brownbill, and they travelled together to Edmonton by train. After a few days rest it was to Power House by team and wagon.

On June 21, 1912, Mr. James Brownbil, age 34 ,made application, through the Dominion Land Agent at Entwistle, Alberta, to file for a homestead patent on N. W. Quarter, Section 9, Township 49, Range 7, West of the 5th. Along with James Brownbill a number of family members filed for homestead patents – William Pilkington, James and Annie Blower, Mrs. Elizabeth Pickavance, William and Mary Pickavance and William Brownbill. During the summer months they cleared land and throughout the winter months the men were employed by the Edmonton Heat and Power Company that was building a dam. James Brownbill worked each winter as a driller, taking core samples and soundings. Through the years James improved on his homestead. In 1912 and 1913, 5 acres were broke each year. In 1914, 10 acres were broke and 5 cropped. 1915 saw 17 acres broke and 15 cropped and in 1916, 8 acres were broke and 32 cropped. Stock on the farm 1913, one horse, 1914 and 1915, team of horses, but by 1916 there was a team of horses, one calf, two pigs and 24 chickens. The size of the home was 24ft by 22 ft, log, lumber and shingles valued at $360.00. There was one mile of fence valued at $125.00 plus a barn valued at $300.00. The chicken house was valued at $125.00, the hog-barn at $150.00 and the well at $90.00. On July 3, 1916 the Land Patent Branch issued a Certificate of Ownership to Mr. James Brownbill, of Power House, Alberta. He resided on this homestead until his death.

James Brownbill's doctor, Dr. Ellis diagnosed him with prostate cancer and he succumbed and passed away peacefully on June 13, 1942. He resided on his homestead until his death. He was buried at the Drayton Valley cemetery on June 16. Mr. H Mastrie was the funeral director and undertaker with certification of information by William Brownbill, registration of death by Mrs. W.J. Drake, Registrar on June 13, 1942.

It was Ms. Ayling who was listed as the "officiating Clergy" with the Diocese of Edmonton (Anglican Church) Register of Deaths, for the Drayton Valley area who managed the church dispensary and prior to Mr. Brownbill's passing provided him with a limited degree of medical care. Ms. Ayling was also listed as the "officiating Clergy" for the majority of interments between the years 1942 and 1944.

Although none of the above sources specifically indicate an exact site, or plot number for Mr. Brownbill, using the information obtained, it has been possible to determine the location of his interment.

Based upon the information provided by Vital Statistics and using the original Anglican Church records, housed at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, a complete list of deaths and burials from 1940 to 1944 was compiled. From this list, all burials for which Ms. Angus Alying is listed as the "officiating" were cross-referenced with the Town of Drayton Valley's Cemetery plan 5935 H. W. for Lot 1, Block 5.

Apart from those individuals who passed away between 1941 and 1942 and were buried in family plots, intered elsewhere, or were officiated over by individuals other than Ms. Alying, a systematic selection of sites used is evident. It appears Ms. Alying's involvement with the cemetery, during the years 1941 and 1942, centres exclusively around plots 35,37,38,47 and 48. Furthermore, the cross-reference of information shows that the only plot that is not specifically designated to an individual, but simply marked "grave" on the Town's site plant is plot 38 N. Based upon the records researched, the matching of death and burial information, the cross-reference carried out and the Town's cemetery plan – Grave site number 38 N can only be that of James Brownbill, whose interment took place on June 16, 1942.

MARY ABIGAIL BROWNBILL

Mary Abigail Brownbill Collier was born October 28, 1900 in St. Helens, Lancashire, England. She had one brother, William, born in 1905.

Her family worked for Pilkington Glass and as miners. They heard of land available in Canada for homesteading, so in 1909, the men in the family got on a cattle/passenger boat and headed for Canada. They ended up in Power House, Alberta and there carved out a home. They also worked building a dam, clearing land and proving on their homesteads.

In 1911, the women and children left Liverpool, England on the Emerald Isle for this new land. They were met by Uncle Bill Brownbill, and then travelled to Edmonton by train. After a few days rest it was on to Power House by team and wagon. Power House is now called Drayton Valley, Alberta.

The country was wild and unsettled with abundant game, but no schools. Mary was sent to Tomahawk to board with a schoolteacher and get an education. That was cut short when she was called home in 1946 because her mother had passed away. Mary then became the "mother" to her younger brother and her cousin.

In 1919 she married Burton Harmon Collier, a U.S. citizen. They took up a homestead, built a log home and farmed at Drayton Valley. James Frederick was born there in 1923. Sometime later they sold out and returned to the Spokane area in Washington.

WILLIAM BROWNBILL

Written by Jim Blower

William, fondly known to his family and friends as "Chub", was born on the 9th of November, 1905 to James and Elizabeth Brownbill, of St. Helen's, Lancashire, England. However, due to the loss of his mother while still an infant, he was raised by his father, with the help of an aunt, Abigail Pickavance. In an article published in The Western Review, in 1984, Chub made mention of the fact that: "I was nearly a gonner when I was born and the doctor gave me up. My old man brought me through, feeding me honey and black currants and I have never been to a hospital since."

As a young boy of six, Chub immigrated in 1911, along with other family members, including a cousin of the same age, William ("Stan") Pickavance, to begin a new life in Canada. Their long journey, by ocean liner to Montreal and then by rail, brought them to the town of Strathcona, now part of Edmonton, where Chub was reunited with his father and an uncle, both of whom, three years previously, had traveled to Alberta in order to file on homestead lands.

Stanley Pickavance and Chub Brownbill

From Edmonton, arrangements had been made for them to journey by rail, to the town of Gainford and from there, by team and wagon, to what at that time was known as the settlement of Power House. Being the early spring, the wagon trail was badly washed out and the creek beds were in full flood. On more than one occasion, they almost lost both wagon and personal possessions to the swiftly flowing waters. The journey took a number of days to complete, and each night, the family group would stay at one of the bachelor's homesteads that were along the trail. One was the Hoyle's place and another the Peter's homestead near Tomahawk.

Despite the poor trail conditions, they eventually reached what was to become their new home, a quarter section of land, which today lies just across the road from the Eldorado School site.

Chub's most vivid recollections of the trip consisted of great apprehension over the noticeable absence of other travellers during the journey, and the vast wildness of the land they were travelling through. He often stated that, throughout the trip, he had wondered "Why the family would ever come to such a lonely place." However, his fears were partially dispelled, by his uncle, Bill Pilkington, who managed to catch a young rabbit for Chub to keep as a pet, which helped him occupy his mind.

Chub also remembered his first days at Power House. Staying first with the Drake family, then in tents, while some form of more permanent living structure could be constructed. At the time, the rabbits were most plentiful. If you left your door open, it was not unusual to return home and have to chase the rabbits out, but not before they had chewed on ax handles and damaged leather horse harnesses.

As a youth, Chub worked with his father on the homestead and for a short time also attended classes at the local school, under the direction of a Miss MacRea. However, due to a shortage of district teachers, these sessions were only held for two months each summer and were run by teachers who

normally taught at Tomahawk. Chub also spent one year in Edmonton, living with his uncle and aunt, Jim and Annie Blower, while attending the Donald Ross School. During this period of his life, he often mentioned that his most enjoyable chore was being responsible for fetching the daily water supply from the Saskatchewan River, using a drag line attached to a water bucket. During the winter months this also included breaking the ice that had formed over the surface of the water hole during the night.

As Chub grew older, both he and his cousin Stan played for dances held in homes, schools and barns, in both the Drayton Valley and Buck Creek areas. Chub played the violin and Stan corded on the mandolin. Chub also recalled, with great fondness, the annual community picnics along the river, playing baseball and horseshoes, and eating homemade ice cream and apple pie, culinary tastes which he maintained throughout the rest of his life.

He also vividly remembered the Christmas season. The younger children would string popcorn to help decorate the Christmas tree. There was visiting of neighbours. As a child, Chub would receive a small bag of candy and occasionally an orange, each Christmas morning.

As a young man, Chub worked in Jasper for the railroad during the winter months and in the fall, occasionally as a farm hand in the area around Czar, Alberta. However, most of his time was spent on his father's homestead. He also worked a sizeable trap line, along with his cousin, Stan, in the Brazeau and Elk River areas, which took twenty-two days to cover. However, both gave this work up in 1928, in order to spend more time on their respective homesteads. One homestead was located on land just across from what is now Sekura Auctions and the other close to where the hospital now stands. Later, these lands were sold and both Chub and Stan moved to what was locally known as "The Flats", a few miles south of Drayton Valley.

Here, the two cousins raised cattle, hogs, and later grew grain crops. Chub would often tell the story of how one spring, during break-up, forty head of cattle, which represented three years of hard work, wandered onto a sandbar in the Saskatchewan River and were cut off when a large ice jam formed further downstream. Fortunately, the ice broke the following morning and as the water receded they were able to herd the cattle back home.

With the discovery of oil in the area, in the 1950's, Chub also spent a number of winter seasons, driving cat and clearing battery site locations for Mobil Oil.

In 1967, both Chub and Stan sold their farms and moved to Creston, B.C., as Chub had developed arthritis and was finding the winters too cold. However, after only three years away from Drayton Valley, missing friends and familiar surroundings, they moved back and purchased farmland just south of the Valley, near Violet Grove. When asked about why they returned, the answer was always the same: "I guess this is where we belong. There's nothing like your own home, is there?".

Chub was a man who preferred to live a basic lifestyle and derived great pleasure from working in his garden, picking berries, and fishing. Being a survivor, in the true sense of the word, he was not one to readily complain. His temperament was that of a quiet, somewhat reserved, but extremely caring individual, who always maintained and practiced a personal philosophy that honesty was a man's greatest virtue and one should always strive to treat others with the respect and courtesy they wished to receive themselves.

In 1990, Chub, together with his cousin Stan, moved to the Shangri-la Lodge, where Chub resided until his passing, at the age of ninety-one, on December, 24, 1996.

ELMER AND MARY BUCHHOLTZ

Elmer and Mary Buchholtz and son Dwayne (2 years old) moved to Drayton Valley area in the spring of 1956 from Barrhead where they were farming. Our plan was to leave the farm for a couple of years and then return and be able to buy better equipment. We never did move back to the farm. We spent 33 years working for Mobil Oil (8 years in Drayton Valley and 25 years in Whitecourt). We retired in 1988 and moved to Edmonton in 1989.

Elmer started working for Socony Mobil on February 13, 1956 at Battery VG13, about 2 miles south of Violet Grove. The starting wage was $1.46 an hour (big pay in those days). At that time all I knew was that an oil well was a hole in the ground and oil came out.

Elmer Buchholtz operating L.P.G. plant one mile south of Drayton Valley

Elmer stayed with friends in Drayton Valley in a skid shack (they hardly had room for themselves). Mary stayed on the farm until April. In the meantime, a skid shack (12 x 32) was being built on a piece of land across the road from VG Battery 13 where the rest of the Battery 13 employees were already living in trailers and skid shacks. We had no power and hauled our water from a farmer ½ mile down the road. After a few months we got power and Mobil drilled us a water well.

Skid shack at Violet Grove with the garage under construction

In 1958 Mobil Oil built a trailer park and moved us all into Drayton Valley. It was very muddy and the trucks and their loads were skidded into place with caterpillars (mud, knee deep). We now were on water, sewer, power and not long after on natural gas. I remember one day (Dwayne now about 4 years old) looking out the window as a work crew was setting up fences, his eyes lit up and he called: "mummy come quick, a chocolate man". He had never seen a dark person before.

Getting skid shack ready to move from Battery 13 Violet Grove to Mobil Trailer Park in Drayton Valley

The first year Dwayne went to school, he got stuck in the mud across the road in an open field and his mother had to go rescue him. He said he will never forget that and is now in his 40's.

In approximately 1959, we had our first new home built; the 2nd house east of the Scout hall. In 1961, we adopted a little girl (Karen Arlene) and in

Dwayne Buchholtz and cousin Brenda at our new home

1964, we were transferred to Whitecourt. In 1964, we were blessed with another son (Darrel Dale).

We have many memories of Drayton valley; like being towed through mud holes at 3 a.m. when the road to Highway 16 was under construction; lots of rainy weather, the sidewalks and streets uptown

Elmer, Mary and Dwayne Buchholtz

being very muddy, helping build the new Lutheran church, making many new friends, etc.

As of September, 1997, Elmer and Mary retired in Edmonton. Dwayne, wife Helga and their 3 children, Anita, 19, Ivan, 17 and Eric, 14, live in Peace River and Dwayne works for the pulp mill.

Karen and her 3 children, Candice 16, Dylan 6 and Sahvana 5 live in Edmonton. Darrel, wife Kristine and their 3 children, Katlyn 4, Joshua 2 and Nathan 6 months, live in Edmonton.

MATT BURNETT

Submitted by Walter Turiak

Matt Burnett homesteaded on NW 24-48-8-5 in the early 1930's. He built a small log cabin and moved his family, wife Agatha, and daughters, Olive and Marjorie, form Onoway. Mat started the Violet Grove Post Office about 1935, in his house. Matt and his wife went to Drayton Valley to pick up the mail with a saddle horse in the summer, a horse and a cutter in the winter, once a week on Saturdays. He cleared a few acres of land each year, and broke it with four head of oxen and a breaking plow. He helped to build the Violet Grove School and was a school trustee for many years. He built a bigger house from lumber in 1937. They had teachers living with them, who taught at the school, for four years. Matt did custom land breaking for local homesteaders with his four oxen. In 1941 or 42, Matt started custom grain grinding with a crusher, which he ran with an Oil Pull Rumley tractor for local farmers, every second Saturday. He had a few cows which he milked and shipped cream to Edmonton in the summer. He sold his oxen and bought horses in the early 1940's. He worked in the logging camp in the winter on 1945-46. In the spring, of 1946, he sold his cows, horses and machinery and moved with his family to BC. He rented his land for a few years, then sold the farm to Bert Millar.

ROBERT (BOB) BURROWS

Bob Burrows son of Roy and Mary Burrows, attended school in Drayton Valley from grade one through to graduation. He excelled in sports, hockey, tennis and baseball. After attending Mount Royal College in Calgary, Bob went on to further his education at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington. When he had completed his studies and received his degree he returned to Alberta and was employed by the Recreation Department at Hinton.

Bob met his bride to he when he came home to visit his parents in Rimbey. Audrey Pearce, came from Sarnia, Ontario, to teach at the Rimbey School. She received her BA and BE from Brock, Weston, and Carlton University in eastern Canada, and later her Masters Degree from the University of Victoria and her Ph.D. in special Education from the University of Alberta.

Bob and Audrey were married in 1981 at her home church in Sarnia. After their wedding, they resided in Hinton where Bob was employed and Audrey taught school. An opportunity arose for Bob to be Recreation Director in Lac La Biche, so they headed north. Audrey was able to continue her teaching career there, also. In 1985, their daughter, Kirsten, was born. Shortly after another move was made to Morinville. Bob was again the Recreation Director and being closer to Edmonton, Audrey was able in 1991 to write her thesis and obtain her Ph.D. She was employed by the Sturgeon Centre Office and later seconded to the Alberta Department of Education in Edmonton. Between all their moves, and continuing their jobs, they were blessed with two sons. Kyle, in November 1988, and Kory, in 1990. At the present time (1998) Audrey is still with the Department of Education, and Bob has two travel bureaus, one in Morinville, and the other, in Fort Saskatchewan. They now reside in St. Albert.

ROY AND MARY BURROWS

Written by Mary Burrows

Roy and Mary Burrows and their young daughter Carolyn (Lyn) came to Drayton Valley in March 1954.

There was no housing available at that time so they had to bring in a trailer. Roy and Mary came from England in 1948. Roy worked in various stages of the oil industry in the four western provinces before coming to Drayton Valley. Mobil Oil had asked Roy to fill in for six weeks for one of the staff who took a leave of absence due to family matters. That 6 weeks turned into 18 years.

When they arrived with their trailer they had to park it at the B/A service station until such time that a cord wood road could be made to get their trailer up the hill to the Mobil Oil trailer park west of town. This was a temporary park until such time as houses could be built for the staff.

There were very few phones at that time and their phone was frequently used to coordinate the transfer of injured workers between Dr. Brooks' make shift office, the airstrip which was made to accommodate oil field aircraft, and eventually to hospital in Edmonton, as at that time there was no hospital. Mary served on the committee that helped set up the first hospital which has now been replaced with a bigger facility.

Eventually the company houses were complet-

ed, but the streets were not, so much mud was a daily battle. The country roads were also bad and it took them 8 hours one day to get to the airport in Edmonton. It was quite common to see several burned out oil tankers in the ditches.

The school was bursting at the seams and for some time the children only attended half day lessons. The small hamlet soon became a town. We remember seeing seven oil rigs working at the same time. When we came down the hill from the west at night it looked like lots of Christmas trees.

There were only two churches at that time but soon others were built and various organizations formed. Roy was a Charter Member of the Elks Club and also belonged to the Lions and Masons. Mary was the Charter President of the W.I. (Women's Institute) which was chartered in 1954, and was a charter member of the Royal Purple, was Brown Owl of the Brownie Pack, Treasurer of the W.A of the Anglican Church and other positions in the church.

She was the first woman to serve on the town council and the first woman to obtain her pilot's license from the flying school at Drayton Valley. Roy was also a pilot and was a founding member of the Drayton Flying Club. Mary retained her license from 1964-1992 and is now a complimentary member of the Edmonton Flying club. In 1956, son Bob joined the family.

Shortly after Mobil Oil transferred Roy to the head office in Calgary and then about a year later the whole family was transferred to Paris, France where they resided for approximately 2 years. On their return to Mobil International in New York they headed back to Alberta and went into a business of their own. They purchased property from Lane-Wells Services (which is now approximately where the RCMP detachment is located). They converted the premises into a Shell Service station and Drayton's first motel, The Diamond Motel, later sold to Jack and Peggy Tyler. They became the first car dealership in Drayton valley with American Motors (Rambler). In addition they purchased the building, that was originally Tuckers Store, later to house the first newspaper office, The Pembina News Advertiser. The adjoining property to the north was purchased from Mr. A. Starling. The old buildings were torn down and a new building was built to house the new Chrysler Dealership known as Roy Burrows Motors Ltd. This has since been demolished and the property now has the Saan Store. Selling cars seemed to be Roy's venue so when the Schlumberger Property was put up for sale, Roy and Mary bought it and turned it into a Datsun Dealership. In 1970, Roy won a trip to Japan through sales at the Datsun business but Mary stayed at home to look after the other businesses, as she managed all the financial side of their partnership.

It was also in 1970 that their daughter Lyn married Stan Luchak Jr., so 1970 was a busy year. Between all their business ventures and service organizations Roy attended the University of Odessa in Texas and Mary obtained her diplomas in Business Law, Management Accounting, Community Development, Communications, and merchandising. This she accomplished through the department of extension from the University of Alberta. In 1974 Roy and Mary sold their businesses and moved to Rimbey in 1975. Their house in Rimbey was not quite finished so they flew to work each day, having a vehicle at the airstrip in Drayton and one at the Rimbey end which wasn't a real airstrip, but they had permission to use this field on the outskirts of town. Unfortunately, a farmers cows took a fancy to the taste of the planes paint and proceeded to chomp on the tail section. This meant travelling by road until the house was finished.

In Rimbey, they bought a GM Dealership and also had a location in Sylvan Lake. Sadly, Roy had a stroke in 1987 and passed away in 1992. He was buried in the Millet Cemetery close to some of his relatives who came to Canada in 1905. Mary is now retired from the business world, but is, at present, the President of the Alberta Horticultural Association of which she has been a member since 1967. She received an honorary Life Membership from them in 1981 for her contribution to Horticulture. She still teaches Horticulture related courses and judges at many shows in Alberta. She is still active in W.I. and the ACW of the Anglican Church, Eastern star and the local Horticultural Club.

Their daughter Lyn and husband Stan reside in Rimbey. They have a daughter Christine and son, Steven, who are at the present time continuing their education in Calgary. Son Robert and his wife Audrey (married in 1981) have three children, all in school and they live in St. Albert. In 1975 Mary wrote a book entitled "Memoirs of the Mission". It is the first book written about some of the early years in the Anglican Parish and was dedicated to the Pioneers of the area.

FLORENCE AND GEORGE BUTLER

In the spring of 1977, the phone rang. It was Earl Kelly, on behalf of the United Church, inviting us to come to Drayton Valley. Of course, we had heard of Drayton Valley. It was the oil town adjacent to the largest oilfield in the province. We expected a

town rough at the edges, with muddy streets, oil tankers galore and a lack of services. Instead we found a bustling community with paved streets, excellent schools, modern hotels, banks, a hospital – the works!

Best of all, we found an exciting community – a community that supported so many projects and worthy enterprises. Ready to tackle anything providing it was worthwhile. Memories – the annual Rodeo, with its remarkable display of riding and roping – and pancakes – haven't seen that many since! The November 11th service organized by the Legion with so many young people in their uniforms on parade, with, the R,C.M.P. leading the way. The provision for the Seniors-the Wishing Well Apartments, Shangri-La, the Drop-In Centre-, the Bee Hive Workshop for the handicapped as well as the Group Home. And remember the 'Boat People', refugees from Vietnam ... they were housed and fed and loved, and patiently taught our strange language, and then found employment in town. So many wonderful memories still stand vividly in our minds.

We left Drayton in 1981 to have the remaining years of our ministry at lrricana, about 35 miles north-east of Calgary. We retired in 86 and moved to Edmonton – we're still there. (the longest we've stayed at one place!) We keep our hand in at St. Andrew's United where, even though George isn't using a cane, he is called Minister Emeritus. Travelled a bit – to the Holy Land, Greece, Europe and England, Scotland, Spain, Morocco, across Canada a time or three – still hobnob with the Kaarsemakers and drop in for coffee with the Hoylands (Sardis) on our way to Victoria.

Our family – Edward is now a school principal here-, Valerie with family of four in Calgary – husband Hugh with Husky Oil so we still have a connection with the oil industry; Bonnie with three girls, Ken at Cessco -I Karen became hooked on B.C. – has spent several years teaching on Queen Charlotte Islands.

BUD AND JOYCE BYRAM

Our family, consisting of Bud, Joyce and two young children, Hazel and Ron, moved to the area in June of 1955. Bud had been working on rigs, mostly wildcats away from settlements, and working seven days a week. Family life was suffering and it was decided to try production.

When Bud received an offer from Socony Vacuum we gladly accepted. We moved into the Centerfield trailer court to be near work which was centered out of Battery 13, south of Violet Grove.

We will never forget the trip out. Bud came ahead pulling our trailer with a jeep. Joyce came behind with the two little kids in the car which was not air conditioned. The day was hot and the road, one mile east of the present road, was extremely dusty, and extremely busy with truck traffic. Joyce's memories of the trip are of rolling windows down for cooling and immediately up, to keep some of the dust out, for the entire trip.

The trailer court at Violet Grove left a lot to be desired. Although we hooked up to water, sewer and power, the condition of the water was sometimes questionable, sewage poorly handled and processed, and the wash houses were bad. There were frequent breakages in sewer and water lines. There was always room for one more unit, so we were sometimes rather close together. 1955 was a year of never ending rain, and with no landscaping, no cement patios or play areas, we lived in a sea of mud, dirt and oil. We have an 8 mm film of Hazel and Ron, in puddle jumpers (what would we have done without those plastic cover-up pants) playing in a water puddle with other children. When we brought them in, we discovered the puddle was mixed with diesel fuel which had leaked from a too close neighbour's fuel barrel. In spite of, perhaps because of our less than ideal living conditions the friendship and camaraderie were excellent. The Violet Grove area had been fairly sparsely settled, but we fondly remember the friendships that developed between us, the oil hands, and the local community members. Perhaps this was because they had been pioneers long before us, and had learned that in that remote type community we needed one another. Perhaps we also compare this friendship to towns and communities we had been in, where rig hands weren't the locals idea of friends. Some of the people who gave us the early hand of friendship were Freeman and Ethel Hill, Cal and Jessie Bartlett, the Ed Hill family and the Sr. Mrs. Hill, the Glen family, Marj and Leonard Brennan, and Ida Wallace and Les, and the names could go on.

There was certainly no recreation hall. However, we did some visiting between trailers and I guess we kept busy working and raising kids. One great shock we had was an outbreak of polio, with at least one case in our court. The shots were not available, and we felt that our children were or could have been exposed. A concerned father and tearful mother drove our kids to Edmonton where we begged for and got the gamma globulin shots.

In 1957, we moved into Drayton Valley, sold the trailer and shed and got enough money to buy furniture, including our own washer and dryer – what a luxury!!! We had a new arrival in 1958, while in the apartment. Joyce had to go to Edmonton for the birth of Kenneth.

Our next move, two years later, was to one of Mobil's houses. Darlene was born in 1960, but this time it was in our new local hospital. Darlene was delivered by Dr. McLure. Dr. McLure was a part of our lives that cannot be forgotten, and he and his wife certainly contributed a lot to this community. He was a great individual, so very accomplished and willing to share.

We were transferred to Edmonton in 1961 and subsequently to Calgary. Bud left Mobil in 1971 and returned to Drayton Valley to start a contracting company that eventually became Byram Industrial. Joyce came 1½ years later. She had to stay in Calgary to earn the money needed to feed the kids, while Bud got started.

Along with Joyce on the return to Drayton Valley came Ken and Darlene. They were still in school and both completed grade 12 here. Joyce continued teaching here, setting up a program for children with learning disabilities. During the first year the program was funded by the government. She was a pioneer of sorts, as there was virtually no help to begin with.

Ken and Darlene left Drayton Valley for their secondary education, Ken at Calgary and Laramie, Wyoming, and Darlene in Edmonton. After working away from home, they eventually returned to Drayton Valley and both are looking after the family business along with Darlene's husband, Brad Wilson.

Ken married the former Ellen Benns, a speech therapist, who, while a student at University, used to come to Drayton Valley as a summer lifeguard at the pool. After graduation she located here as a speech therapist, and eventuallly met Ken. They have two little boys, Joey and Eric.

Hazel and Ron did not return to live with us in Drayton Valley. They are both married with two children each, and live in Calgary.

Our company, Byram Industrial Services Ltd., started out as an oilfield construction and maintenance company. It has evolved to where its main function or operation is Pembina Oil Separators in Drayton Valley, and Northern Oil Separators in Zama. These operations do clean up and recycling of oil field products trucked in to them. The company also has an analytical laboratory for oilfield products. The company now has under study a large land fill project west of Cynthia to provide a service to the industry when the leases are abandoned. Our company has changed to keep pace with the ever evolving oil and gas business.

As we strive to sort out a few of the more outstanding memories of our many years here we remember first our early impression of MUD, MUD, MUD. In addition to the mud mentioned above in our living space, we recall the roads. About a week after our arrival we decided to go out for dinner for our 4th anniversary. Using our jeep we managed to get through the road construction on our way to Drayton Valley, but the rain was coming down so hard we determined that the wisest move would be to buy some specialty foods – those not in our normal budget – and get home as fast as we could. Just outside Drayton Valley there was major road construction under way. With the rain there were smaller trucks, and trucks with pole trailers etc. all over – mostly cross ways. With our little jeep and some ditch driving we made it back, some five hours after leaving home. I guess that was our first lesson in Drayton Valley MUD.

It was easy to find Drayton Valley at night because of the flares. We pulled wells to the flare pits and burned a lot of them at night. We remember the coming of major projects to stop the waste in the oilfield including water flood projects, gathering facilities for gas conservation, and elimination of flare pits. A less happy memory, is the National Energy Policy (NEP) imposed on our industry and this area, in October 1980. This was a devastating blow to our industry and community.

Our communities – Drayton Valley, Violet Grove, Cynthia and Lodgepole – were built and developed quickly, as bedroom communities for the industry in the large Pembina field. It was unfortunate that we were located in an ID where tax dollars flowed directly to the provincial government, with very little flowing back to help us. The good part of this is that in order to have such things as recreation facilities, fences around schools, and libraries we all had to work together to acquire these facilities. This spirit of working together seems to continue today.

Good memories include gathering with others with our contributions to a Christmas hamper which Dave Glen delivered to a poor homesteader.

There was a perceived need for civil defence training to prepare us for hostile attacks. Some of those remembered in civil defense were Larry Gano, Alf Armstrong, Al Miles, Roy Geake and many others.

As we grow older in this community we cherish these memories, of the ups and downs, as Drayton Valley and area grew. We note that the spirit of volunteerism continues, to the benefit of our youth growing up, and this bodes well for the future.

CAMERON FAMILY

Written by Dave Cameron

My Grandfather & Grandmother Cameron were married in Woodside, Manitoba, on November 6,

1878. Grandfather passed away on March 20, 1902, leaving Grandmother with a large family of young children. She moved to Lloydminster in 1905, and settled in the MacLaughlin area shortly afterwards. She lived there until her death on the 26th day of August, 1944. My father, Fred Cameron, served in W.W.I, was gassed and suffered from lung problems for the rest of his life. He got work at my Grandfather Davidson's farm at Holburn after the War, and married Mary Davidson. They lived on the farm until Fred got a Veteran's homestead grant in 1927. He built a shack and we moved to Rocky Rapids on July 1, 1928. We lived there until 1930, when the family moved back to the Holburn area, where we stayed for 18 months before returning to Rocky Rapids. When we first came to the area, there were no roads west of where Rocky Rapids Store now stands, only a cutline on the survey. My brother, Bill, and I attended school at Rocky Rapids in 1928-29, before going back to Holburn. By that time more people had taken homesteads and the road was cleared and some grading done. In 1935, Laurel School District was formed three miles west of Rocky Rapids store. We attended school there after the school was built in 1936, on the Southeast corner of section 1-50-8-W.5. A road was built extending straight west. Now, at least the trees were cut.

Since there were 14 children in our family, 10 boys, 4 girls, times were tough. Everyone had to pitch in and do their part. Fred Cameron passed away on April 18, 1975.

I joined the Army on July 4, 1941, and went to England in December, 1941. I met my wife in Sheffield and we were married on March 4, 1944. I was wounded on August 26, 1944, returned to Canada on January 9, 1945, and was discharged from the Army on February 23, 1945. My wife and I lived on my parents' farm until we bought our own acreage to the east of my parents' farm. We built a house in 1959 and raised 5 sons and still live on the same property.

VERNON AND JEAN CAMPBELL

Submitted by Jean Campbell

Vern and Jean Campbell came to Drayton Valley from Codette, Saskatchewan. Vern arrived first in December, 1953, seeking work in the oil fields and was soon employed by Socony Vacuum (later to become Mobil Oil). He stayed with the family of Dave Glen who owned Glens Contractors out of Violet Grove until July, 1954. Lou Glen was Jean's aunt.

Jean and the rest of the family (Dale and Marilyn) arrived in July, 1954 and settled into a tiny one-room skid shack that Vern had built on a lot he had purchased from the Dodsons. When the family first arived there was no power or running water, and very few houses. There was however, an abundance of mud and mosquitoes. Most people lived either in skid shacks or trailers. Although life was not always easy, the family thrived in the boom town environment and matured gradually, as did the town.

Dale and Marilyn attended Grades 1 through 12 in the Drayton public school system. Jean worked at the MacLeods store and later at the Sears order office for 15 years. For brief periods of time she also sold Avon products and even had a brief stint as a Welcome Wagon hostess. Vern retired from Mobil Oil in 1978, after 25 years, at the age of 65. He returned to his same job at Mobil almost immediately however, as a contractor working for Byram Industrial Services. He later worked part time at High West right up until he passed away on July 25, 1994, at 81 years of age.

Dale works for Suncor at their oil sands mine in Fort McMurray as a project manager. Marilyn is a loans manager at the Hong Kong Bank in Edmonton. Jean moved to Edmonton in April of 1997.

BILL AND DOROTHY CARR AND FAMILY

Written by Dorothy Carr

Bill was born in Cluny, Alberta, in 1921. I was born in Maple Creek, Sask., in 1929. Bill was a veteran of the 2nd world war. We were married in

Dorothy, Doug, Bill and Eleanor Carr, 1954

Rainier, Alberta, in 1949. In 1954 we came to Drayton Valley from Bassano with our 2 small children. Housing was at a premium and we had no choice but to live in an 8x16 shack in Mackenzie's yard. It was very cold that winter and I didn't think spring would ever come. We had no fridge but didn't really need one as everything stayed frozen in the cupboards.

Bill started to work for James Wagar and then Jack Scot running a wireline. Some of the companies Bill did wells for were Jack Scot of Ohio oil, Chuck Garrys of Home Oil, Chuck Schnieder of Dome Petroleum and Bill Dain who I believe was with Decalb. He then started his own wireline and continued with the same companies.

Elmer Freund, Bill Carr, Art Lepiere 1957

In 1956 we upgraded to a trailer in the Violet Grove trailer court. I'll never forget the mud in that place.We saw many changes in D.V. in a short time and did a lot of different things. We started the first auction market in 1962 on the north end of town just to the north of Lewis William`s home. In the fall of 1963, it burnt down and the land was used for a Massey dealership where Bill was salesman for 11 years. After that, he sold cars for Valley Pontiac. The International Dealership was owned by Ted Jordan and other machinery dealers until 1991.

Eleanor, Doug, Billy, Dorothy, Colin and Bill Carr 1968

We had 2 more children born in D.V.. Eleanor, our eldest, married Don Tuttle of Evansburg and had 3 children. Doug married Verna Nikoloyuk of Wildwood and has 2 children; Colin married Trina Simon of Evansburg and has 2 children; Bill Jr. married Heidi Munro of Switzerland and that's where they live.

Bill passed away in May of 1995. 1 live on the farm north of D.V., SE-6-52-7-5 next to my son Colin. We watched a little village turn into a thriving town. I have many memories and I consider myself lucky to have seen it all happen.

THE MURRAY AND CLAIRE CAREFOOT FAMILY

Written by Claire Carefoot

We moved to Drayton Valley in 1975, from Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Murray worked for Mobil Oil Canada Limited and he was told that Drayton Valley was a good move for his career. I remember the milkman in Swift Current, who knew everything, saying to me "I've known folks who have moved to Dreadful Valley, they liked it while they were there, but they were sure glad to get out when they were finished". We packed up our three boys. Murray Jr. then aged ten, Danny then aged eight and Kevin aged eighteen months and headed North. The Milkman turned out to be totally and utterly WRONG.

I remember one of my first few days in town when I was standing in line at Valley Drug Store. A woman smiled at me and the smile was so genuine I looked over my shoulder to see who she was smiling at, thinking she must know somebody standing behind me. There was nobody over my shoulder, she was smiling at me. That was a taste of things to come in that little town of about 3,000 people. The friendly people who became our family because like most of the people there, our families lived far away so we came to depend on each other.

Claire became involved in the community over the years and spent one three year term on Town Council in 1983 to 1986. She became very involved with the Member of Parliament at that time, Joe Clark, and eventually ran two of his campaigns. He is still one of the finest men we have ever met. He is honest, and a man of high moral standards with a true vision for the country. It was such a privilege for us in Drayton Valley to be represented by him.

Claire began to sell Real Estate in 1979 and became part of the boom that continues in Drayton Valley today. We were transferred to Olds, Alberta in 1987, and I will never forget that day. It was my 39th Birthday and I was driving down the river hill sobbing as we left for the south. In retrospect, I

think we all feel the move was a mistake. We still continue to think of Drayton Valley as "HOME".

Our oldest son, Murray, completed University and did what we wanted the young people to do when I was back on Town Council; he moved back to Drayton Valley to teach school. He is now teaching at H.W. Pickup Jr. High School and raising his daughter Tylyn in Drayton Valley.

The wonderful thing that came out of our move to Olds is that our son Danny met his wife Stacey there and she joined our family in 1994. They now have a wonderful young son, MacAulay, born in 1996. They lived in Drayton Valley briefly and now are living in Innisfail where Danny is an accountant.

Our youngest son Kevin has also returned to Drayton Valley and is selling cars at Stetson Motors. So you see Manny, I did send you back two tax payers.

As you can tell we love the Town of Drayton Valley. I could go on and on about those years, the years we raised our children, curled, played ball, worked hard and made the most wonderful friends. Tom McGee and his crew continue to make us so proud of our little town and you never know ... retirement is not that far away ... Maybe ...

ERNEST & ALICE CHAPUT

Ernest came to Drayton Valley December 8, 1953 to work for Socony Vacuum (now Mobil Oil). He stayed with Joe Dubeau who lived in Violet Grove, a small hamlet 8 miles south west of Drayton Valley, consisting of about 10 homes, a store and a garage. Alice joined me in January, 1954. We rented a cabin from Joe Dubeau. As it was very cold,. Bruce, who was 1½ years old, had to be on our bed all the time as the floor was too cold. At least it was a place to live. After two months, we found a better cabin in Drayton Valley. The cabin was rented from Ed Erickson, about 300 yards north of the now existing Petro Canada filling station.

Chaput Family

Working for Socony Vacuum as a traveling operator with Cal Bartlett and Cecil Torgersen, we averaged 100 miles per day to wells ranging from Cynthia, Pembina, Violet Grove and Drayton Valley areas.

It was while living in Drayton Valley that our twin girls were born, August 30, 1954. It took us one hour to travel the 24 miles to Highway 16 on a very rough road, with at least four really bad mud holes, then another hour to get to the Royal Alex Hospital.

In 1955, Socony had developed the Pembina area consisting of approximately 45 wells per area and of four separate batteries in the area which we were assigned to work. So we built a skid shack on Walter Vickery's farm on SW 20-48-8.

We lived at that location until 1960. We then moved, lock, stock and barrel, to a location across from Mr. Turner which was on Arvid Erickson's quarter section, 5-49-7W5. This is where our fourth child, Murray was born May 29, 1960. We lived there 3 years. In 1963, we purchased four acres from Cascade Drilling which had vacated the property. It was on SW 30-48-7, west of the Turtiak farm. We lived there until March 28, 1998. At that time we sold and moved to Edmonton.

Bruce now lives in the Cooking Lake area. Murray lives in Edmonton and drives bus for the city of Edmonton. Karen lives in Vernon, B.C. Sharon lives in Boyle, Alberta. Ernest and Alice now live in Edmonton.

The Ernie Chaput family

LES AND ANNE CHERRINGTON

By Anne Cherrington (Urkevich)

Anne married Les Cherrington from Moon Lake, Alberta. In 1952 we moved to Edmonton. We had three children: Brian, Darlene and Darren. Then we moved to Calgary. Brian and Darlene married

and are still living in Calgary. Darren moved back to Edmonton with us. After a few years he got married and is living in Leduc, Alberta. We have five grandchildren and two step grandchildren. Les retired in 1991 and we moved back to his roots, Moon Lake, Alberta.

BERNIE & FRED CHIPCHASE

We arrived in this country on November 5, 1934. No paved roads, gravel to Entwistle from Edmonton and dirt road to Drayton Valley, which became a mud hole when it rained.

Our homestead was about two miles west of the Pembina River, so it had to be crossed every time we went out for supplies, etc. Everyone living near the river had a boat and was always willing to take you across or come and get you, if you were walking.

There were a couple of weeks in the spring and fall when the river couldn't be crossed at all: when the ice broke up in the spring and when it was freezing again in the fall. Sometimes it was too high even to drive a team across.

The closest store at that time was at Rocky Rapids, also the Post Office. Later Mr. Young had a Post Office in his home and named it Easyford, as he said he had the easiest ford across the river. When the store was built, the Post Office was moved there. Mail was brought in from Rocky Rapids once a week by team and wagon or sleigh.

Elk Head School was held in Mr. Wall's homestead shack. There were about a dozen children on the west side of the river. Our children attended there until it was closed, then they had to go to the Easyford School, which meant walking two or three miles to the river, cross by boat, and walk another mile or two. Eventually, in 1944, we moved across the river to our farm south of Easyford where they were able to attend Clover Trail School.

Neighbors were few and far between, but everyone helped each other. Fred sheared five sheep for a neighbor, who gave him as payment for his work - three laying hens, which were our first chickens. If you had a milk cow and a big garden, you got by quite well. There always were lots of blueberries and rhubarb.

The mosquitoes and flies were terrible. Horses had to be smeared with fly dope, a mixture of Pine tar, creolin, etc. before you could take them out of the barn. There were no screens on our windows, so we had to make a smudge in a pail and smoke the mosquitoes out of the house, then close the windows until morning.

The only work in the area was in the sawmills in the wintertime.

As there was no high school available and few jobs in the thirties, the young people had to leave to get work. Some went out to the Prairies to work in the harvest fields. Our boys went to High River. Don stayed on there working for a rancher and later settled down with a ranch of his own. Horace got into trucking when the oil business started, and is now retired and living in Edmonton. The girls all married farmers. Eleanor to George Moore and living in Castor, Alberta. Freda's husband, Clyde Resler, has passed away, but she still lives on the farm near Rocky Rapids. Ruth and Dick Mohr live on the farm in the Moon Lake area.

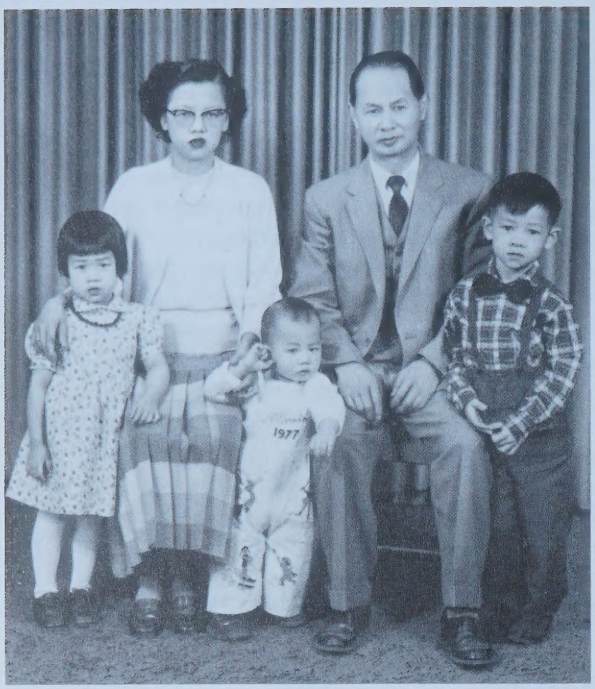
Charles was born much later and is an electrician and farms in the Moon Lake area also.

DAVID SING CHOW

David Sing Chow was born 14 Aug., 1902 in the village of Mao Kong, in the Hoi Pan area of Mainland China. He came to Canada in 1919, to Pincher Creek, AB. They had to pay a head tax of $500.00 in those days. Dave lived with his uncle and at 16 years of age became a student in the daytime, and worked in the cafe at night. Dave was a hotel proprietor in Boyle, AB., before returning to China and bringing back a wife.

Sue Nung Kwan was born 2 Sept., 1927, in the village of Tung Leong, also in the Hoi Pan area. Her mom was Wun Kwai Woo and her dad was KoK Chan Kwan. She had two sisters and one brother. Her older sister was married to Dave Chow's cousin. In 1949, Sue left China to stay with that sister, Sue Fung Kwan in Cantoy for 3 months then went to Hong Kong to stay with an aunt. When Dave and Sue went to a movie the aunt would go along. When they would go out for dinner, her aunt would go along. It was traditional for girls to be well chaperoned. They were never alone. On January 19, 1952, they were married by a Justice of the Peace in Hong Kong and got on a plane for Edmonton. Jokingly, Dave asked her, "Is your aunt going to come along?" They landed in Edmonton where he had left his car parked, took it to buy her a coat, boots, and groceries and headed for Boyle. In China they heard of all the money to be made and thought of Canada as the Golden Country. Sue's first glimpse of Boyle with the little houses and everything covered with snow. She was shocked and exclaimed, "THAT is Canada?"

Living in Canada was a big adjustment for Sue. It was very warm in China, and although they used wood, in a fire pit inside with a chimney and cement floors, she had to learn how to use a coal and wood stove. She had to wash clothes by hand. Luckily, this was only for about one year. For nearly the first 15 years, Sue could hardly speak English.



Sue and Dave Chow

In 1953, March 29th their first son, Benny Dave Chow, was born in the Athabasca Hospital; it being the nearest hospital. He was the first Chinese baby to be born there. The same year they moved to Whitecourt. By 1954, they were living in Edmonton in a little suite where often someone tried to break in. August 19th, 1954, Lillian Chow was born outside the Royal Alexandra Hospital, actually in the "car"! She was early and weighed only 51b. 15oz. When Lillian was 1 month old, Dave went to Drayton Valley to look for a business. He took over the Wildcat Cafe Sept. 1954, buying the business, not the building. It was across the street from the old Block's store, now the Elks Hall. On January 9, 1957, Danny Ray Chow was born at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. In 1957 and 1958 Dave Chow was on the town council in Drayton Valley. The Drayton Valley Hotel was already open. Dave bought land on the west end and built a building and restaurant business called, "Pembina Garden" in 1955. They only occupied it until 1960 when they sold it to a group of Chinese people who called it the "Club Cafe." It was closed within a few years and Jim Mah opened the "Jade Cafe" took over from the "Club". About 1965 the "Jade " closed. In 1957 they built a second building to the east (now Uptown Laundromat) called, Drayton Hardware, sold after one year to Ron McCartney who moved the business known as Marshall Wells.

Dave, Sue and family moved to Vancouver when they sold "Pembina Garden" in 1960. That building remained empty for a few years until the Laundromat in 1972. By 1961, they were back in Edmonton with a coffee shop on 99St. and 72 Ave called "Dave's Cafe". During this time in Edmonton, Mae Lilly Chow was born to them at the Gneral Hospital, on the 17th of August 1964.

Benny and Lillian Chow

In 1965 it was back to Drayton Valley where they rented a house until 1966 and where presently the "Uptown Laundromat" is, opened a store that carried groceries, clothing and shoes for one year, 1966 to 1967, named Lil and Mae's Department Store. 1967 they were off again, this time to Peace River for the Centennial Year. They had the B.A. cafe at the B.A. Service Station. Again the family returned to

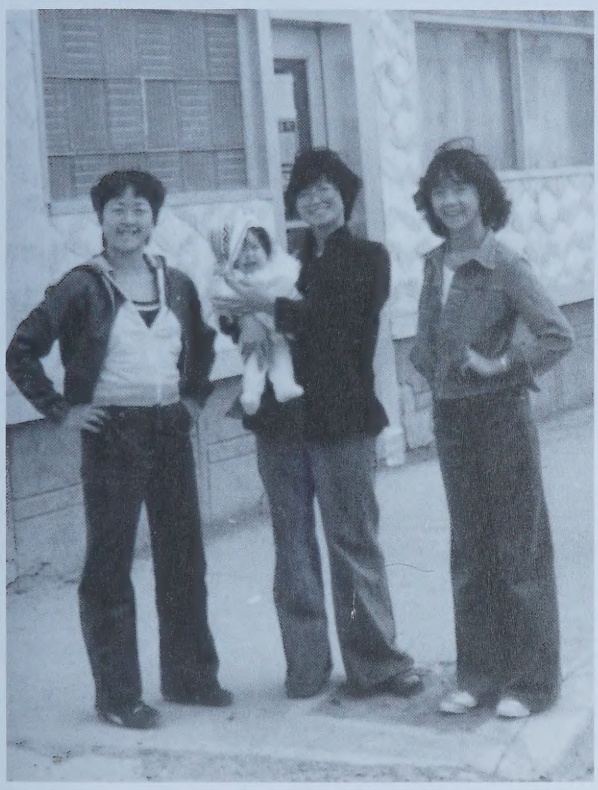
Drayton Valley, and in 1968 they remodeled and opened, "Dave's Cafe" at the westend of the hotel. At first they lived above the cafe.

1972 they put a laundromat, "L&M Laundromat", in the next building east of the cafe. Part of it had arcade pinball machines. In the 1974's they built a second story above the laundromat and lived there. For twenty years they had the laundromat, until about 1992 when the laundromat and cafe building were sold to son Danny. He sold out about 1½ years later. With more recent owners the cafe has seen several more names, Oilers, Penguins, and is now the "Ritz" in 1998, and the laundromat is presently called "Uptown Laundromat."

Benny stayed in Drayton Valley, married Rose Marie Corpus of Manila, Phillipines. He is a landlord, and is produce manager at IGA. Lillian studied and worked as a computer programmer before studying and now working in the garment manufac-

turing industry with such companies as Sun Ice in Calgary. Lillian lives in Calgary AB, with her boyfriend, Dave Patriquen. Mae is a lawyer in Drayton Valley. Danny married Valdine D. Marshall. They have 2 children, Suzanne and Anthony. He owned an auto body repair shop. Danny is now into a new business, Gemini Auto Solutions.

In July 1993 Dave passed away in Drayton Valley, where Sue was retired in 1992 and still lives there and maintains her own house.



L to R, Lillian Chow, a friend, Mae Chow

ROBERT K. CLARKSON

Written by Patricia Jenkins

My brother came to Drayton Valley in 1951. He was manager of Flint Rig & later became the first Mayor of this town. He, his wife, Mona, and two girls, Jane and Joanne, lived in a home behind the United Church.

Bob was with Flint from 1951 to 1957, when he decided to start his own company known as "Clarkson Construction." He moved his family into Edmonton. Later he had two more children – Judy and Robert Jr.

We all thought of my brother as a very healthy man. He had an aviation medical prior to suffering a massive heart-attack in Fort St. John, B.C.. He died at the age of 39, leaving his wife & four children.

L to R, Donna Clemmer, Mona Clarkson, Pat Jenkins, Megan Clemmer, Robert Clarkson Jr. and Fred Jenkins

Mona still lives in Edmonton, as does Robert Jr. and his wife Lisa. Judy, who is a nurse, lives in Stony Plain with her husband and three children. Jane resides in Calgary and is a doctor. Joanne who also lives in Calgary, has two boys and is employed with Canadian Air Lines.

BRUCE, DONNA AND MAEGEN CLEMMER

Written by Patrica Jenkins

Donna came to Drayton Valley in 1956 with Jenkins and me from Manitoba. Bruce moved to D.V. in 1967. They have one daughter, Maegan, who was born in 1982. After Donna completed High School she achieved her nursing degree as an RNA and worked at our local hospital. Later she worked in the D.V. Veterinary Clinic with Dr. Morden. She has been an avid curler for many years. She also enjoys golfing in the summer.

Bruce worked for Mobil Oil for ten years before starting Wild Card Enterprises in 1977. He is also very active in curling and golf. For over 25 years he has been on many executive boards for various clubs and organizations.

Maegan is currently attending high school and is enjoying sports activities such as curling, and baseball. Maegan has also been taking voice and piano

Bruce, Donna and Maegan Clemmer

lesson for eight years and has done very well in music festivals. Taking Choral and Band in High School has also enhanced her music skills.

I always appreciate Maegan's musical abilities as music is one of my first loves. Donna, Bruce, & Maegan are very active members of the community and enjoy family and friends.

ISSAC LEANDER AND NELLIE JANE COMBS

By Lillian Ritchert and Alice Anderson

Born in 1874 near Loveland, Iowa, USA, Nellie Jane Skeleton became the bride of Isaac Combs when she was 17 years old. Isaac Combs was born in 1870 in Iowa, USA and passed away July 26, 1945. Homesteading in Loveland, Iowa for seven years, they made the journey by covered wagon with their children Lona, Clarence, Tilly, Floyd and Clara. Tilly Combs passed away at an early age.

Floyd building Isaac Combs House

A trip by covered wagon in Trail Dewey County, Oklahoma. Every night during the month long trek, the settlers formed a circle with their wagons for protection from the Indians. Home in Trail, Oklahoma was a dug out sod house and drinking water was rainwater caught and stored in a cistern.

Memories told of how the cattlemen tried to drive the farmers off the land by cutting their fences and driving their cattle into the crop fields. We recall Grandma telling us about one night when she and Grandpa were repairing the fence after herding some cattle off their land. Watching cowboys, seeing her husband without a gun, roped and tied him up, Grandma tricked them into letting Grandpa go. She pretended the wrench they had been using as a hammer was a gun. Irvin was born in Oklahoma.

1944, Isaac and Nellie Combs

We also remember Grandma telling us about another incident. She was home alone. All the men were away, when cowboys rode in with guns on their hips. She was in the cornfield and the only thing she could think of was to make a noise, so she rustled the corn stalks, calling out loud and clear all the men's names she would think of. Thinking all these men were working in the cornfield, they rode off. What a relief for Grandma knowing that even back then the Lord was with her. Her faith was strong. What a lady!

Oxen were their main source for working the fields until they could afford horses. These were a luxury. They worked hard. Aunt Lona (Gregg, Chamberlin) looked after the children while Grandma and Grandpa worked outside. They were a close knit, loving family. Their trust in God carried them through many trials. In 1913, they decided that

Combs family

hardships in Oklahoma were just too much. They had heard about Western Canada homesteads that were available so they were on the move. Aunt Lona was married by then, and decided to stay until later, letting the rest of the family get settled and see how it was going to work out. (Gail Gregg, her husband, was not well). They came to Drayton Valley at a later date. Loading up their small amount of machinery and few belongings, they made their way to the railway. This was a painful journey, not knowing what to expect. Our daddy, Floyd Combs was young and not well at the time and they didn't think that he'd make the trip. They said "good-bye little redhead," but the Lord willing, he made it there okay. He was 13 years old.

Lili Combs in front of the Rocky Rapids Combs Store

Coming to Edmonton by immigrant car, they stayed 10 days at the old immigration hall on 101 Street. They homesteaded in Tomahawk for a short time and then moved near the Saskatchewan River, which would have been the first Rocky Rapids. Rocky Rapids was named after the rapids in the Saskatchewan River. Their land title was SW 36-49-7 W5M. They lived in a dugout, which was a cellar until their house was built over it. Grandma and Grandpa had to haul lumber up the North Saskatchewan River on the ice to build their house. Their food was mainly wild meat, garden and wild berries. Uncle Clarence and Daddy were a big help to them, as they were getting older. Good neighbors always pitched in and helped one another. Their prayers had been answered and they knew for sure they had made the right decision.

We cannot imagine in any way how Grandma and Grandpa felt getting on that train with a family to feed. A new country. Would they be accepted there? Would they find a homestead and make a new life for themselves? How gracious God fit into their plans. He knew exactly what he was doing for them,

Rocky Rapids school class

leading and guiding them all the way. They had a true pioneering spirit. The Dodson family was already in Drayton Valley, so after their home was built, both families started having Sunday School in their homes. The Church of God was established here. In two years time, they moved into their new home where they ran a post office and a small store, and hauled freight from Gainford for the district.

Rocky Rapids School

In the early 1930's, they built a store two miles north of the airport and this is NW 34-49-7 W5M. A store and home combined, is now the village of Rocky Rapids. At this time, the post office was moved to Gilbert McCall's, a quarter of a mile north of the store. Grandma went to the Christian Mission in Edmonton and got clothing that she used to make over for needy families in the area. Other clothes were given away. Credit for groceries was always open for the families that needed it. We remember Grandpa always had a big box of candy that was given away to the kids. We never ever had to pay for candy when we were kids. Their door was always open, even to the Indians that traveled through to go hunting and fishing, to warm themselves by the old heater. The Indians paid their bill with meat and fish when they picked up supplies. Grandma would treat their illnesses if she could. Grandma, (as were others in the community) was a midwife delivering many babies.

Our dad, Floyd, started hauling the mail and freight by covered wagon from Entwistle. This trip took him two days, staying at the Runzers half way. Daddy loved to play baseball and it was at one of these games that he met our mom, Mary Etta Cory. She was always cheering for the other team as she lived at Brightwood. Grandma claims they had the first car and truck in the district both Model T Fords. Daddy told of the time he ran in the ditch on a muddy road. He got out to push the car and Mom drove for the first and last time. When he pushed the car out she gunned it and landed in the ditch on the other side of the road. She never got behind the wheel of another vehicle. Daddy could travel much faster to court Mom, as he had a Model T truck to drive. Road conditions weren't ideal as the rain washed out the bridges they made. Daddy hauled planks of lumber with him to put across the creeks. When the frost came out of the ground, the truck would sink in the muskeg up to the axles. This was just part of the dirty 30's. Daddy, already thinking ahead, got his homestead across the road from Grandma and Grandpa's first homestead. There he built his first home. There was a steep coulee to go through to get to their land. This was a real challenge. We recall daddy telling us about a big sink hole off to the side of the road on top of the coulee hill. It had no bottom.

Floyd Combs, Mary Combs, Marian Combs (Thomas), Lillian Combs (Richert), Lili Combs, and Alice Combs (Anderson).

It seemed to grandpa and grandma that the Model T Ford was making a few more trips to Entwistle than necessary. Mom and Daddy

announced their engagement and were married April 11, 1930. They moved into their home on the farm. They started farming and they got a few cattle and chickens. He still used the horses and wagon, as gas was expensive, and used the truck to haul mail and freight. They started their family.

Marion Lona – May 18, 1932 – was born at home with Grandma and Grandma Mastre as midwives. Lillian Bertha – Dec. 9, 1933 – was born at the home of Mrs. White at Entwistle. Dr. Chisolm had an office in Evansburg and came and helped Mom. Lile Harrison – July 30, 1936 – was born at home with Grandma and Grandma Mastre as midwives. Alice Eileen – Oct. 28, 1937 was born in a hospital in Edmonton. Donna Anne Shirly – Sept. 6, 1949 – was born in a hospital in Edmonton.

Grandma Combs took in several young girls who had no place to go. One of these girls we remember distinctly was Vicky Morrow (Rebb, Cass). She became a part of our family. Another very special person in Elizabeth Young (Lank). She is and always will be dear to us.

With the big flood in 1944, we couldn't even make it to the store, so planks were put across the creek or we had to cross on a high bridge that Uncle Irvin had built. It hadn't washed out.

Marion and Lillian always used to run away down to the barnyard so Mom would put a feather on the path. They wouldn't go around the feather. They were afraid of chickens, but one day they were peeking in the chicken fence and Lil caught her bonnet on the fence. Marion went running to the house crying, "Chicky eat Lillian, Chicky eat Lillian!!" Mom had to go to the rescue.

Lile was not well as a baby. Times were hard. Daddy started hauling cattle, cream and some lumber to Edmonton with a three ton Fargo truck and freight back the next day. They decided to move off the farm to a home just south of the store built by Daddy's sister Clara's husband, Robert Abell in early 1938. It also was time for Marion to start school in Rocky Rapids, so it seemed nearly impossible to send her across the coulee, alone, to school. Lillian started the following year.

In the fall, Daddy went big game hunting and always came home with meat. He loved the outdoors. It was hung in the icehouse until spring and then he helped Mom can it. We also ate lots of prairie chickens and rabbits. We camped out several days to pick berries to can them. We remember after it hailed, we ran out to get pails full of ice to make ice cream. The hail ruined the garden, but the ice cream was good.

The Combs family was a big influence in building the Church of God in 1940-1941 in Rocky Rapids, next to our home. They were a big pillar in the church.

Mary Combs – Great Great Grandmother 90 years old, Alice Anderson (Combs) – Great Grandmother, Wanda McQueen – Grandmother, Leonard Primeau – Father, and Baby – Dezmon Albert Primeau

After we had lived there a few years, we built a garage for daddy's truck. It must have been a lot of fun for him, especially with four kids underfoot, but the garage got done.

Our cousins, Netta and Nellie Abell from Edmonton, helped us girls build a three story play house out of scrap lumber left from the garage. A sight to behold, but we had fun doing it. You wouldn't believe the hours and hours spent in that playhouse, even when it got too dark to see. We loved it. The Abell girls spent most of their summer at our house.

We went to a one-room schoolhouse a half a mile east of the Rocky Rapids store. There were up to 45 children (grade 1-8) in one room. Our heater was a gas barrel. We melted snow in the winter for water until a well could be drilled. We carried a Gainers Lard pail or a Rodgers Syrup pail to put our lunch in. In the coat room, lots of time our lunch would be frozen.

They closed our little school in Rocky in 1951 and we were bussed to Drayton Valley. Lile and Alice were both in Grade 7. Mrs. Law was our teacher. At this time Lil went to Laurel School, taking her grade 9. Marion had already quit school and Donna was still at home. She was our baby.

Times were looking up. We got our first phone on a barb wire fence. It was a party line, but we could also listen in on everyone else too.

Daddy started hauling gravel in 1957 as his other work was running out. He also hauled coal to the drilling rigs in the winter. He wasn't young anymore, but kept working until he was 65, and then he and Mom were able to do some traveling. They got power into their house in 1957, which made it a little easier on them. In 1965, they moved the house off their lot and put in a newer home with a basement and plumbing. Mom was in heaven.

We had a special life at home. Not many who lived out here were as fortunate as we were. We went to Edmonton, especially for special events like the circus, Edmonton Exhibition, etc. every summer. We were all taught to drive the big truck, except Mom, and we were allowed to go to shows and church events in Drayton Valley and sports events. Christmas and Easter were always spent with Uncle Ruff, Aunt Lona Chamberlin and their kids. We had a ball. We always had gifts to open. We had all the trimmings on the table and on the tree. We never ever did without.

Our daddy passed away Dec. 18, 1977, in the Drayton Valley Hospital. He has been missed dearly by his family, relatives and close friends.

At the present time Mary Combs, aged 91, is living at the Shangri La Lodge. She is happy and content and in good health. We are so fortunate and blessed that we still have her.

Marion and Gordon Thomas have two children, Wayne and Geraldine. Wayne and Lorna have two children – Gordon Wayne (G.W.) and Sandy Lee at home. They have Country Style Trailer Park. Geraldine and Richard have one daughter Jennifer.

Lillian and Art Richert have no children and enjoy their retired years traveling.

Lile and Doris Combs have 4 children, Vivian, Brenda, Valerie and Calvin. Vivian and Perry have three children – Aaron, Dana and Mandy. Brenda and Kevin have two children – Jennifer and Brandon. Valerie has one daughter Melissa. Calvin has one son Chase. Lile is a gravel trucker.

Alice and Albert Anderson have two children Wanda and Lola. Wanda and Barry have two children Leonard and Angela. Leonard and Stephanie have one son Dezmond Albert. Lola and Warren have two sons Chad and Dustin. They own Anderson Sand and Gravel Ltd.

Donna and George have two children, Shelley and Gene. Shelley and Derrick have three children Tyler, Travis and Zackery. Gene and Merna have two children Christy-Lela and Cheyanne. Donna has Donna's Laundry Service.

Grandpa Combs died at the age of 75 on July 26, 1945. Grandma Combs was 89 years old when she died on March 17, 1963. Uncle Clarence died just before he turned 80 on July 31, 1976. Aunt Lona died at 94 years on March 25, 1987 and Aunt Clara died on March 27. Uncle Erven died at 80 on November 9, 1982.

L-R, Bottom to top- Lola, Warren McGhie, Barry, Wanda McQueen, Angela Primeau, Alice, Albert Anderson. Bottom right- Dustin McGhie, Leonard Primeau, Chad McGhie

RUFUS A. CHAMBERLIN/LONA B. CHAMBERLIN (GREGG/COMBS)

Written by Laurence Chamberlin

Rufus Chamberlin was born on June 25, 1881, in Wakefield Township, Quebec. His parents were Samuel Emerson Chamberlin and Catherine Stevenson Chamberlin. Rufus moved to the Salmon Arm area of B.C., where he worked as a blacksmith, lumberman and ranchhand. Mr. Chamberlin was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Montgomery Branch and of the Spillimacheen No. 13 Masonic Lodge. He returned to Quebec in 1911.

In 1914 Rufus joined the 4th Field Core Canadian Engineers as a driver. While overseas, during World War I, he served in such notable confrontations as Vimy Ridge and Cannes in France and also in Belgium. Upon returning home he spent a short time in Eastern Canada around the Poltimore area of Quebec before returning to Western Canada.

Rufus Chamberlin was one of Drayton Valley's early pioneers. He arrived in the Drayton Valley area in 1919, along with his partner George Stebbing, and took a homestead at TWP 49 RG 8 SEC 16 W. of 5th, about 5 miles west of Drayton Valley. Unique to the location of this homestead is that the east boundary of Section 16 is a ridge which slopes east and west. On the west the land drains into the Pembina River and ultimately into the Arctic Ocean. Sloping to the east, the land drains into the North Saskatchewan River and eventually into the Hudson Bay.

Rufus Chamberlin with team of horses

Together they built a log cabin which still stands to this day. The logs they used were cut down around the building site. Lumber was then hand sawn from the logs to build the cabin floor, window and door frames and roof sheething. A partition created two rooms. My dad and Stebbing lived in the one end and the other end was a barn for the horses. A barn was later built and after my parents were married and mother came to live there the barn became the kitchen. My dad eventually bought out Stebbing's half of the Section and he (Stebbing) returned to England.

Water!!!! That all essential commodity everywhere. Somewhere in the community they had to locate an individual who possessed the power to locate a water source. Such people use a witches stick, a ('Y') the individual holds one branch of the 'Y' in each hand and points the stick out in front. As he walks about and passes over an underground water source, the stick is suddenly drawn down pointing to the ground. My dad must have engaged one of these people because he hand dug a well about 30 feet from the end of the cabin. Digging this well was a major endeavour. The hole was approximately four feet square. As the hole deepened the excavated dirt had to be hauled to the surface by a bucket on the end of a rope which in turn was wound around a pulley. As this was occurring , the hole had to be lined with 2" planks (cribbing) to prevent a cave-in. He found good clear water at about 60 ft. The water was brought to the surface by bucket and rope on a pulley. The well also served as a cooler to store milk, home made butter and at times fresh meat. These items were placed in another container tied onto the end of a rope and lowered into the well just above the water level. Many years later we drilled a well beside this one and fitted it with a hand pump.

During the time Rufus started homesteading in the district he was also the fire ranger from 1922 to 1930. As the fire ranger, he had a large area to look after. He would set out on horse back with only his rifle and revolver to check on fires that sprang up. During these trips he would be away from home for days at a time, he would sleep and eat out in the bush or stay with people who invited him to stay for the night. Because of his experience with horses and their care, he shoed many horses and repaired harnesses for many of the farmers in the district. Also a blacksmith, Rufus was always sharpening plough shares and repairing machinery for neighbours. Payment in those days for work was often an exchange for goods or time. I often helped my dad by turning the handle on the forge while he shaped or repaired items brought to him.

Fall presented Rufus with a different service to locals. Numerous city dwellers wished to use his services as a guide on hunting expeditions into the Brazeau area for big game. On many occasions I'd see them return with the sleigh box filled with deer, elk and moose quarters which provided a portion of our meat supply for the winter. Dad and my uncles Floyd, Ervin and Clarence, (mother's brothers) always had a great rivalry as to who was the best shot, whose rifle was the best , or who could bring home the most game. This time of year was also time to harvest the large vegetable garden which had been planted in the spring. Mother canned much of the meat and many of the vegetables which were stored, (along with fresh vegetables,) in a cellar under the house, which was accessable with a trap door in the floor. This provided the family with vegetables and some meat throughout the winter.

Lona was married to Gail A. Gregg in 1909 in Leedy, Oklahoma, where their son Gail Ruply was born. The Gregg family moved to Canada from Oklahoma on the immigrant train along with Lona's parents Isaac and Nellie Combs and their family who settled in the Rocky Rapids/Tomahawk area. Due to the failing health of Gail A., the Greegs returned to the U.S. where Gail A Gregg passed away in September, 1925. Lona and son Gail returned to Canada. They lived in Edmonton for a number of years where Lona worked as a seamstress and Gail Ruply attended school.

Rufus Chamberlin and Lona Gregg (Combs) were married in June, 1928. They adopted a son, Rufus Laurence, in 1936. Gail married Abbie Jones and along with their children Ora, Barbara and Earl, lived on a quarter section to the west of the Chamberlin farm. Ruply and Abbie divorced and Ora, Barbara and Earl came to live with their grandparents Rufus and Lona Chamberlin. Being raised together they were more sisters and brother to Laurence, rather than nieces and nephew. Sadly, Ora passed away in 1941.

As did most wives in these days, they worked side by side with their partners in most aspects of operating the farm. Lona was no stranger to hard work having cared for her younger Combs siblings at an early age. Fall was also a busy time for her because of the harvest. Farm wives were expected to prepare huge meals for the threshing crews on their return from the fields.

Farms back in those days consisted of raising and caring for numerous animals. In addition to the horses, for work and transportation, we kept cows, sheep, goats, pigs, turkeys and of course chickens for eggs and food. Barbara, Earl and I were expected to do our share of chores. Animals had to be fed and watered, eggs had to be collected, cows milked, barns needed to be cleaned etc. We always helped to plant and harvest the large garden.

Rufus Chamberlin, showing Elk antlers

My father donated a few acres of land on the south side of the S.W. quarter as a school site. The Clover Trail school was built here. We also provided board and room for a number of the teachers who taught here. Barbara, Earl and I all attended school here for a number of years prior to moving to Drayton Valley. We either walked the half mile or rode Old Punch to school and to Drayton Valley to collect the mail. Punch was a quarter horse dad had purchased to kill for mink feed. Punch was spared execution because we kids made such a fuss about killing him. We rode him for many years even though he frustrated us on many occasions. He never wanted to be caught, he often bucked his riders off, I'm sure just for his own amusement, and he could jump over any fence. He provided us with many years of enjoyment and when we moved to Edmonton in 1950, we gave him to a neighbour and hopefully his remaining years were pleasurable for him.

One of our family outings was to go blueberry picking. We would pack the entire family, plus the groceries for two or three days and a pet goat for milk, onto a hayrack pulled by a team of horses. We usually crossed the Pembina River at the Brown crossing and headed out to blueberry country. The goat , and I forget what name we called her, would roam around the bush running herd on all of us. I recall one year crossing at the Brown crossing which almost was a disaster. The usual ford route was altered by a washout and, as we crossed, the horses dropped into a hole and had to swim through. Fortunately the wagon box stayed on the wagon and the animals pulled us to safety.

During the winter, a trip to visit neighbours or the relatives in Rocky Rapids involved hitching a team of horses to the sleigh and spending a number of hours travelling over snow covered trails. Not a great amount of land was cleared in those days and the journey was through trees beautifully decorated in a blanket of snow. Wildlife (rabbits, squirrels, partridge, prairie chicken, coyotes, deer and elk) were always visible on these journeys. Keeping warm could be a challenge. To do so we often heated field rocks and wrapped them in newspaper or towels and placed them under the blankets in the sleigh. The other alternative was to jump out and run behind the sleigh, which at the time we thought was great fun.

Homesteading in this relatively harsh environment was not easy. Clearing trees and brush to create fields to grow grain and other crops required much time and hard physical labour. After knocking down the trees and clearing away the brush, there was still the big task of breaking the land, picking roots and rocks. People were poor but they required little and they helped each other. My recollection now, is of long severe winters, a lot of rain in the summer and not too many really hot days. Because of a lack of material goods, we never really expected much and we always had an abundance of good food on the table and clothes on our back. Life was good.

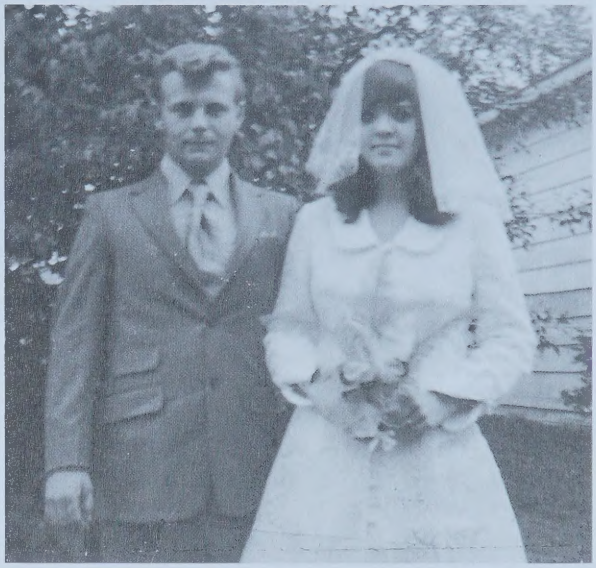
Rufus and Lona retired from farming in 1950 and moved the family to Edmonton. The Chamberlin farm still remains in the family. Rufus

Rufus and Lona Chamberlin

Chamberlin passed away in 1967 and Lona in 1987. Ruply Gregg passed away in 1989. Laurence is retired now and still lives in Edmonton. He married Carol Adams from Stettler. They have three children, Cary, Barclay and Tim. They also have four grandchildren. Barbara married Jack Goodearl and they live in Carpinteria, California. They have two children, Mike and Debbie. Earl and his wife Sandy had two children, Derek and Janice and three grandsons. Earl now lives in Boise, Idaho with his wife Angie.

JUANITA BLOCK AND ROD COOKE

Juanita Lee Block married Roderick Cooke, a welder, June 19th, 1971. Their son "Rich" (Richard William) Cooke was born January 5th 1972 at Drayton Valley "New Years Baby" although born on the 5th he was still first-born for the year for Drayton Valley. Juanita and Rod divorced and in 1979 she met Gregory Allen (Clausen) Hansen. They had a son, Tyrel L. born 1983, and a daughter Krista Rene born 1984. In 1985 Juanita became a single Mom again.



Rod Cooke and Juanita Block

Juanita worked at a variety of interesting jobs, bank teller for Treasury Branch, at Memory Lane Photo Studio, as receptionist for Dr. Buckert and Dr. Anderson at Dental Office. Also, clerk in a drugstore, helping deliver mail on a route, combination teachers and computer aide, secretary and presently with special needs clients.

Her eldest son Rich married December 14th 1990 to Raeann Smethurst of the Morningside/Lacombe area. They purchased a condo in Callingwood Court, just south of West Edmonton Mall. Rae is a trainer for 7-11. Her job consists of a lot of travel which left Rich home as "House Dad" for son Dustin Richard Cooke born February 28th 1991. He now works at Safeway and is Shop Steward.

Juanita Block Grade 12

The Year 2002 saw daughter Krista graduate with honors and in August her baby, Kaitlyn Jade, was born. Juanita owns the old "Grandma Block" house on 49th Street where Ty, Krista and baby Kaitlyn also reside.

Front, Krista and Tyrel Block. Back Rich Cooke

DAVID & LOIS COWARD

Submitted by Lois (Landsiedel) Coward

David grew up on the family farm in the Easyford area, I grew up on the family farm in the Pembina area. In 1978, we bought the NW 15-50-08 W5M from Jack Coward, a lovely place on the Pembina River. This is the land that John Henry Coward (David's grandfather) bought from Henry Sekeda in 1948.

As well as farming, we operated a construction company from 1978 until 1998, when we semi-retired. David is now consulting on pipeline construction and land reclamation as well as farming. I spend my time on farming, gardening and volunteer work.

We raised two children Shayne and Shawna. Shayne is employed by Penn West as a petroleum technologist. He and his wife Debra operate Lily's Antiques in Drayton Valley.

Shawna works part time at the Drayton Valley Municipal library and her husband, Justin Turner, works for United Resource Safety. They have a daughter Rebecca. Lois's son Donald lives in Edmonton.

JOHN HENRY COWARD

By Lois Coward

John was born in London in 1882, the son of a glass blower. He followed in his fathers trade until 1903, when with the Barr Colonists he came to Canada. He settled in the Isley district, homestead-ed land and in 1911 married Nellie Sherwood. They had a son, John William in 1915. Nellie died in 1919 during the Spanish flu epidemic,

In 1948, John bought land adjoining his son's quarter at Easyford. He died at Vermillion in 1960.

JOHN WILLIAM AND FREIDA COWARD

By Lois Coward

Jack grew up in the Isley -Vermillion area, farming with his father.

Freida Margaret Wolters was born in Missouri and moved with her family to Tolland in 1911. She went to normal school in Calgary and taught in schools in the Vermillion area.

Jack and Freida were married in 1935. The drought had hit the Vermillion area so when they heard about the Pembina area where it rained and was green, they moved . They lived on several rental properties until they bought the SE16-50-08 W5M from Jesse Bond in 1942. The land is on the Pembina river so there were some open flats. There were no roads, just a trail that meandered from farm to farm. The nearest store and post office was Easyford. To get there, either the river or Hysteads creek had to be forded, a round trip taking about four hours.

Frieda Coward and family, 1943, Charles, John and Donella

Jack, Freida and children moved into the log cabin with a sod roof that was on the property. There was a spring in the corner of the cellar, a handy source of water for the house. In 1947, John and Tom Sather were hired to build a two story log house. Jack and Freida lived in this house until 1977, when a new log house was constructed. Freida finally had running water!!

Freida started teaching in area schools in 1945 and taught at Easyford, Laurel, Rocky Rapids, Buck Creek, Blufton, Barrhead, Niton and Whitby. She retired in 1970.

Jack was the farmer. Freida would take the older children with her, to live near the school at which

she was teaching and Jack would care for the younger ones while tending the animals, planting crops and harvesting. During the really busy times, he had help from hired girls and Mr. Brown. During summer holidays everyone farmed. Since farming in this area was not a money maker, having Freida teach ensured that the farm could be improved on.

Jack and Freida raised four children, John, Charles, Donella and David who all live in the Easyford area.

Freida is in the extended care in Drayton Valley. Jack passed away in 1983.

JOHN AND MARGARET JEAN (LAW) DANDERFER

Margaret Jean Law was born September 26,1929 at Lloydminster, Alberta to Francis Henry Law and Barbara Jean (MacKenzie). She grew up on the farm on the east edge of Drayton Valley. She met John George Danderfer, born May 1930 of Isley. They married June 16, 1950 in Vermilion. Son Ronald John was born in Vermilion July, 1951. Sherry Jean Danderfer was born April 20, 1954. They left Drayton Valley when their family was small, for Edmonton where they reside to date. Jean enjoys getting out to her Bingo games.

John Danderfer and Jean Law wedding

John worked as a milkman for some time. He later did carpentry, sometimes holding down two jobs at a time, until his bad back forced him to retire.

Ron Danderfer married Joan Adams July 3, 1971. They live in Victoria, B.C. with their children. Greg Jobe was born March 23, 1975 and Kimberley Joan was born November 11, 1977.

Sherry Danderfer married Glen Peterson, a school teacher, May 19, 1972. They reside in Spruce Grove where their daughter Gina Marie was born January 27, 1973.

EVAN GILES DAVIS

By Dorothy (daughter-in-law)

Evan Giles Davis was born in Cardiff, Wales in 1878. He sailed with his parents to the United States at the age of nine.

He became a coal miner and met and married Eliza Jane Page who was born in Yorkshire, England in 1873. They lived and worked in Springfield, Illinois, USA. Their son Russell was born in Springfield in 1905. In 1917 they came to what was then Power House, Alberta, which was later to become Drayton Valley.

They filed on a homestead NE 30-48-7 W5M. They held this land until about 1940, when Russell bought it from them. In 1945, Russell and I were married and we still live on the same land. Our son Evan was born in 1951 and Jim in 1956. Both sons live and work in the district.

Eliza and Evan Davis

RUSSELL AND DOROTHY DAVIS

Written by Dorothy Davis

My father, Henery William Giddings was born in Summerset, England, in 1894. He came to Canada when he was 18 and got a job clearing land for the Power House Dam on the North Saskatchewan River in 1912. This dam was supposed to supply electricity to Edmonton, but war was declared in 1914, funds were stopped, and he and some of the young men built a raft and sailed down the river to Edmonton. He enlisted in the Canadian army and served overseas. When the war ended he sailed for South Africa intending to establish a cattle ranch with his brother Fred. This proved unsatisfactory, so he got a job as a bricklayer in a gold mine. There, in 1923, in Durban he met and married my mother Annie C. Giddings, nee Boodle, who was born in Kent, England on February 2, 1897. I was born in Africa in 1925.

In 1927, we came to Canada and filed on NE 24-48-7W5 and received title for it in 1931. My father died in 1933 from effects of the war at the age of 37. Mom and I moved to Edmonton, where Mom got a job looking after old people, and I could go to school. I went to Cromdale and MacKay Avenue Schools.

L to R, Giles Davis, Anne Giddings, holding Dorothy and Uncle Stanley Giddings

In 1936, Mother and I returned to the homestead in Violet Grove as a school had been built right across the road. Our log shack was still in pretty good shape so we evicted the mice and porcupines and moved our stuff in. We farmed on a small scale and I attended Violet Grove School until 1942.

Russell and I were married in 1945 and we farmed NE 30-48-7W5. Our son Evan was born in 1951 and Jim in 1957. Russell passed away in 1988 and Mother in 1994. Evan and Linda (nee Urchyshn) now live on our original homestead and Jim and Rita (nee Morrill Lindberg) live on our old farm. I now live in Drayton Valley.

Violet Grove School. L to R, Lewis Schmidt, Edwin Brandt, Marjorie Burnett, Dorothy Giddings, Olive Burnett, Deena Schmidt, Mr. Forsyth – teacher

L to R, Dorothy, Russell, Evan Davis, William Brownbill, William Pickavance, 1953

Dorothy, Russell, Jim, and Evan Davis

THOMAS EDWARD DAVIS

Submitted by TR Davis (son)

My father started farming in the Niagara Peninsula when he returned from Western Canada. In 1956, he won the title of Canada's first Grape King for his Vineyards in Niagara Falls, Ontario. My father had many fond memories of Alberta. He passed away in 1981, at the age of 93 years.

Thomas Edward Davis

REVEREND KEITH DENMAN

Reverend Keith Denman and his wife Margaruite and son Thomas came to Drayton Valley in the summer of 1991. Shortly after, a baby girl, Rachel, was born.

Reverend Denman stayed as priest of All Saints Anglican Church for eight and a half years. During his stay a beautiful Anglican church was built. This debt free church was built by the determination of Rev Denman and help and co-operation of the congregation.

New All Saint's Anglican Church

ALAN AND RUTH DISNEY

In 1956, Alan moved to Drayton Valley from Turner Valley, Alberta, with his parents, Robert and Ileen Disney and his four brothers.

In 1965, Alan met Ruth Dusterhoft, who grew up on a farm in the Whitby district. They married on May 14, 1966, in the Tomahawk Lutheran Church. Alan started work for Pembina Pipe on October 2, 1966 and is still employed there.

Their daughter Colleen was born on February 7, 1968 and their son Blair on April 25, 1970. Colleen married Darryl Boles, son of Bruce and Marilyn Boles, on August 22, 1987. They have three daughters, Justine, Marissa and Raeanne. They were transferred to Calgary in 1995 and still reside there. Blair married Coreen Baumann, daughter of Brian and Donna Badman, on August 6, 1994. Blair and Coreen make their home on an acreage, two miles north of Rocky Rapids.

BOB DISNEY SR.

Submitted by Norma Disney (Nee Olberg)

Bob Sr. moved to Drayton Valley from Turner Valley in 1956 and started work for Pembina Pipe Line. He built a house in Dodson's Trailer Park. Ileen and the boys Don, Bob Jr., Alan, Bill and Dave joined Bob Sr. in Drayton Valley in July,1956. A few years later the family bought a lot near the original hospital site and the house was moved there. In the mid 1960's, when only Bill and Dave were still home with their parents, Bob Sr. and Ileen moved to the east end of town.

Bob Jr., Bill, Ilean, Dawn, Don and Allan Disney. Grace, Donald, Bob, Ken, Audrey, Ellen and Bob Jr. Landers

Bob Sr. was still employed with Pembina Pipe Line at the time of his death in 1967 at the age of 52. Ileen was a busy lady with her house full of males and she also worked at the post office, parttime and then full time, retiring in 1983 with over 25 years of service. Ileen passed away in 1986 at the age of 67. Bob Sr. and Ileen are both buried in the D.V. Community Cemetery.

Don Disney and his wife Laurie (nee Berube) are living in Whitecourt, Alberta. They have lived there for over 30 years and raised their son Pat and daughter Karen there. Pat is married to Shelley and lives in Whitecourt. Karen and her husband, Doug Tessier, also live in Whitecourt with their son Myles and daughter Darin.

Bob Jr. married Norma (nee Olberg) and live at White Lake, B.C. with their daughter Kelsey. Their daughter Kathy and son Philip both live in Calgary.

Allan married Ruth (nee Dusterhoft) and live in Drayton Valley. Their daughter Colleen lives in Calgary with her husband Darryl Boles and daughters Justine and Marissa. Son Blair is married to Correen (nee Bauman) and they live in Rocky Rapids. Bill married Christine (nee Scherger) and they live in Airdrie, Alberta, as does their daughter Dallas.

Dave married Julie (nee Wilner) and lived in Port Alberni, B.C. for many years. They have two sons, Jason and Shawn. Dave recently took employment in Indonesia and he and Julie are currently living there.

NORMA DISNEY (NEE OLBERG)

Submitted by Norma Disney

I moved to Drayton Valley from Edmonton in the summer of 1958 with my parents Gordon and Lorena and my brother Don. Dad was working for Eskimo Fracturing.

My memories of Drayton include: No sidewalks. Lots of mud and rainy days. Our first purchase were "mud boots". Our house was east of the original hospital site and it was many, muddy blocks to downtown. The town was full of friendly people. The neighbours were Rose and Larry Wickland, Phyl and Bill Johanneson, Jean and John Danderfor and Marg and Ken Walters. Dad was a member of the Valley Rhythms orchestra (with Dean McKay, Chester Woiden, Pete Hapon, and Autry Combs). When they weren't playing at a dance at Rocky Rapids, Violet Grove or Tomahawk they were practising at our house. Our house wasn't big but it could sure hold a lot of people when there was a party going on. I went into Grade 10 when we moved to Drayton and Don entered Grade 8. The original Frank Maddock High School opened for business during my first year in Drayton. Tom McManus was the principal and who can forget the Kupchenkos, father and son Dr. and Ollie. Classmates I remember fondly were Shirley Sieben, Gayle McManus, Carol Parenteau, Gail Williams, Louise Serenas, Gina Dion, Marie Berlinquette and Arlene Lilje.

Mom and Dad were divorced in 1965. Dad moved to Edson, Edmonton and eventually to Buck Lake where he and his wife Minnie still reside. Mom remained in Drayton for a few years and ran the Bus Depot. This is where she met Len Fuhr (Canadian Coachways bus driver) and they married and moved to Edmonton. Len passed away in 1990 and Mom still resides in Edmonton.

Don completed his high school in Edmonton and shortly after that he joined the U.S. Marines and did a tour in Vietnam. Upon his safe return he joined the Edmonton Fire Department and is still with them.

I completed high school in Drayton Valley and went on to Business College in Edmonton. I worked for a law firm there until June 29, 1963 when I returned to Drayton as Mrs. Robert Disney. In 1964 our daughter Kathy Ann was born in Drayton and in 1965 we moved to Calgary. Daughter Kelsey Lynn was born in 1967 and son Philip Robert was born in 1973, both in Calgary. Bob, Kelsey and I "retired" to an acre in the Salmon Arm area of B.C. to enjoy a leisurely life of golf, travel and visiting with relatives and friends.

NICK DOLIUK

Submitted By Walter Turtiak

Nick Doliuk was born in 1897. Martha Berezowski was born in 1899 in, Kowel, Ukraine. They got married in 1916 at Kowel. A daughter, Harta, was born October, 1921 at Kowel, and a son, Joe, was born 1932, in Lamont, Alberta. They had another son, John, who was born in 1934 on the homestead.

They immigrated to Canada in 1930. They travelled by train to Lamont, Alberta. Nick homesteaded on SW 6-48-7-5 in 1931, and built a small log house. They moved to the homestead in 1932, and there they lived for two years. He cancelled that quarter, as it had a big creek that crossed through the middle and there was very little farmable land on it. He homesteaded on another quarter, NW 36-47-8-5, built a log house, cleared about 15 acres of land and got the title for the quarter. He worked for a few winters in a logging camp. In the fall of 1942, he logged on this quarter which had a lot of spruce timber.

In the beginning of 1943, he sold the logs to John Shkrobot. He moved to Edmonton, and lived there for two years. Then he moved to Niagara Falls, Ontario, in 1945, and lived there for two years. He returned to Edmonton and lived there for a year, before returning to Violet Grove in 1948, when he bought Bill Appel's old store building. He ran the store and went back into farming on his homestead. He sold the store a year later, to Jacobson, and moved back to the homestead. He had more land

cleared with a bush cutting outfit. In 1950, he got another quarter section, SW 2-48-8-5. He had about 40 acres cleared and broke in 1951.

In 1955, Seaboard Oil drilled two oil wells on NW 36-47-8-5. Plymouth Oil drilled two oil wells, and built a small battery on SW 2-48-8-5. He sold 10 acres of land to Goliad Oil for a gas plant. He cleared more land and had to have 60 acres in cultivation in order to get the title. He sold that quarter in the beginning of the 1960's, sold NW 36-47-8-5 in the middle of the 1960's, and moved to Drayton Valley.

Nick passed away in the early 1970's. Martha passed away at the end of the 1970's. Their daughter, Harta, married John Hyryk, of Highvale, Alberta in 1940, and was widowed in the spring of 1956. Son, Joe, drowned in 1945 in a creek at Niagara Falls. Son, John, passed away in the beginning of the 1980's from a brain tumor, in Edmonton.

MILDRED DODSON (NEE: LINDGREN/CURTIS)

Newton and Lucy Dodson, Elden Bennett (Mrs. Dodson's son) and Ena moved from Worthington, Minnesota (they were born in Virginia) to Drayton Valley in 1911. They homesteaded NW 33-45-7-W5th. Raymond Dodson homesteaded SW 33-48-7-W5th. Dad bought Raymond's property as Raymond stayed in Drayton Valley only a short time. A dam was being built east of Drayton Valley on the North Saskatchewan River. Dad contracted to haul freight from Gainford to the dam site, but work stopped with the advent of World War I. My parents then moved to Huxley, Alberta, to farm. They moved back to Drayton Valley in 1920.

Newton & Lucy Dodson, 1938

My sister Ruth was born in 1921. They again decided to move, this time to Virginia, but stayed only a short time, as I was born in Drayton Valley in 1923. Mrs. Jonzon was mother's mid-wife.

Dad bought NW 9-49-7-W5th and SW 16-49-7-W5th between 1924 and 1929. He also bought a ½ section of land for Elden and a ¼ section for Ena in Rocky Rapids.

My parents were very devout Christians. They deeded ten acres of land SW 16-49-7-W5th to the Church of God. Dad built a church and parsonage. He also sold an acreage, on NW 9-49-7-W5th, to Harvey and Cora Morrow so they could build a store. Other people wanted land so Dad sold property directly south of Morrows to Ed Olney, Inar Nordell, Roy Plotts, Agnes Ramstead, Aaron Bennett, Dora Ryan and Peter Hystad. Church of God sold property to Charlie Morin, Helmar Ramstead and Dave Starling. A village was beginning to take shape.

My parents were both very hard workers. Dad was fortunate to get a hired man of the same caliber, Everett Marskell, who now lives at 4921 - 49 Street, Drayton Valley. Mother would drive the binder with four horses and Dad and Everett would stook the grain.

Harvesting on N.W. of 9-49-7-W5

My parents felt Ruth and I had too far to walk to school so they built another home on SW 16-49-7-W5th. The post office and store were also only ¼ mile from our home. My mother was very hospitable and neighbours often dropped in for dinner or supper. Drayton Valley was a close-knit community. My father had a Model T Ford and if anyone became seriously ill, he would take them to Edmonton.

Elden married Clara Davis (from Kansas) in 1931. He passed away in Quesnel, B.C. in 1993 at the age of 89. Ena married Gordon Ramstead in 1929. He passed away in 1949. Ena now lives in Creston, B.C., with her husband Ellis Wedeen. Ruth married Joseph Pawluk in 1941. They now live in Peachland, B. C. I married Bryce Lindgren in 1946, in the church my father built.

I enjoyed growing up in Drayton Valley a great deal. There were lots of picnics in the summer but the highlight for me was when our mothers hitched up the wagons, forded the Pembina River and went blueberry picking. Winters were also fun; Christmas, school and church concerts. Neighbours

would invite us for a party or dinner. Dad would put bells on the horses, mother would heat flat-irons and rocks, tuck us in the sleigh, and away we would go.

Drayton Valley did not have a high school. My parents chose Camrose Lutheran College to further my education, but after my first term I wanted to go to school in Edmonton. If Floyd Combs or Jenson Brothers Trucking were in the city on Fridays, I could get a ride home for one dollar, return Monday and miss a half day of classes unless it rained. Then it would take almost all day ploughing mud to reach the gravel road at Entwistle.

Gordon & Ena Ramstad

My parents decided to rent their land, so they built another house and building on NW 9-49-7-W5th. Dad let Joe and Ruth have his and Uncle Ray's homesteads, however they sold the land and went into lumbering in B.C.

John McKenzie bought SW 16-49-7-W5th from my parents for the sum of $3,500.00. Shortly after, Mom and Dad decided to retire to Creston, B.C. They stayed until the oil boom started and returned to Drayton Valley with just suitcases. People were coming in droves. There was no place for them to live or park their skid-houses or trailers. Dad began converting the farm building into living quarters and provided some parking spaces.

Morrows sold their farm to Mobil for $12,000.00. My parents also had an offer for their place. Dad phoned Bryce and I, and said " Mildred, if I only had my old-age pension to live on, I'd gladly go home to Creston. Will you come to Drayton Valley?" Dad was 79 and mother 75.

Bryce and I, and our daughter Heather, moved to Drayton Valley from Edson in 1955. Our daughter Deborah was born in Edmonton that fall. Bryce went to work for Mobil and we started Dodson Trailer Court. We had a well drilled, graveled the street, and put up power poles. At the peak, we had one hundred and eighty-nine children living in the trailer court.

Joseph and Ruth Pawluk

Next came the sub-dividing of land as people wished to build permanent homes. Lots sold for $250.00. Property was needed for another school and a hospital. Both were purchased from us. Bryce quit Mobil and started a construction company. We also acquired a number of rental houses. Our office for everything was in our home, so there was never a dull moment.

My father became ill with cancer in 1962. We

brought my parents home to live with us. Everett Marskell again became indispensable, a very dear, helpful friend, to my parents and myself.

In 1963, we closed the trailer court and sold the construction business, as our family felt that without these two enterprises, we could move to Edmonton and commute to Drayton Valley to take care of our other businesses. This I did until 1993, when I was stricken with multiple sclerosis.

Newt and Lucy Dodson 50th wedding anniversary

Fortunately, my family, and efficient help in Drayton Valley, assist me in maintaining and caring for my remaining investments in Drayton Valley.

My father died in 1963 at the age of 87. My mother died in 1965 at the age of 84. Bryce died accidentally in 1967 at the age of 44.

I live in Edmonton with my husband, George Curtis, in a suite at Laurier House, a senior complex where everything is done for us.

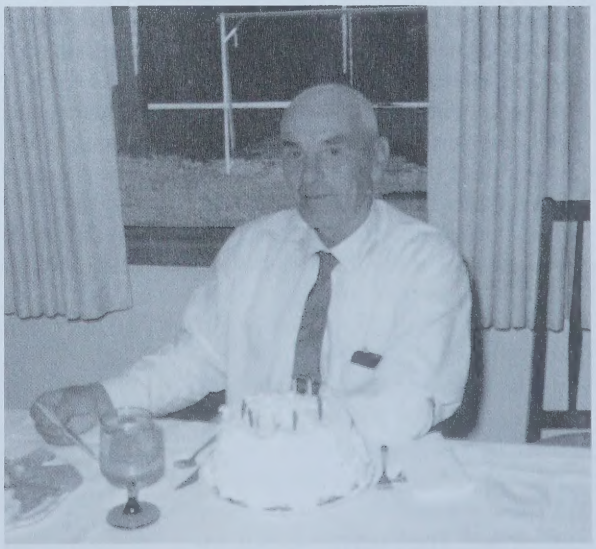
Heather lives in Edmonton with her husband, Leonard Woolley, and son Joshua. Leonard is plant manager for ABB Vetco Gray Canada Inc. Deborah fives on a farm near Calmar, Alberta with her husband Jack Williams, son Bryce and daughter Ashley. They raise quarter horses and have a veterinary clinic at Calmar.

Drayton Valley will always hold a special place in my heart, a happy childhood and the pleasure

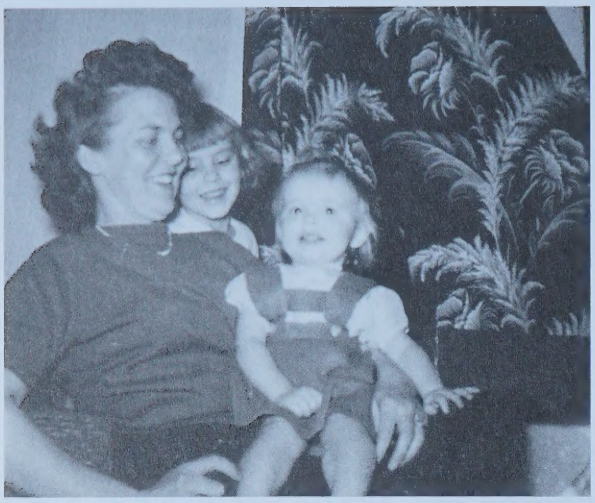
Bryce, Myrtle, and Herman Lindgren, Newton, Lucy and Mildred Dodson

Bryce and I derived from raising our two little daughters there. Also the many interesting people that crossed our path during the early oil-boom years. God has blessed me in many many ways.

Bryce and Heather Lindgren



Everett Marskell's 80th birthday



Mildred, Heather and Debbie Lindgren

ADOLF AND EMMA DOMKE

By Gus Domke

Adolf was born April 12, 1886 in Novograd, Voljnskiy, Vohnun, Russia. He received some schooling in the Old Country but due to hard times, he soon had to go to work to help make a living. In Adolf's younger years he went to Lemon Grove, California to spend some time with his brother, Herman. Adolf with Herman, worked there for a time to earn some money before he married.

Adolf had other relatives in the United States, who were his first cousins by the name ofRobert Schultz and his sisters, Hattie, Milda and Ella. He also had other relatives in the United States and Europe whom he had never met.

Emma (Rose), from the same part of Russia, was born February 15, 1899. Emma received some schooling but we did not know what she did as a younger girl. Emma had two brothers, Fred Rose who lived in Castle Rock, Washington and another named Daniel Rose who lived in Russia.

Both Adolf and Emma were of German descent. They met and married in Russia in the year 1916. During the First World War, Adolf made cups out of bombshells, Emma sewed clothes for soldiers to help supplement their income. Adolf and Emma were blessed with three children, a daughter who died at five years of age, Samuel who was born September 2, 1925 in Russia and Gustav born December 5, 1926 in Russia. Adolf and Emma immigrated to Canada in June of 1927 with their two small sons. After three weeks on a ship, with seasickness and poor living conditions, they landed in Quebec. They then travelled by train to Leduc, Alberta, where they stayed with friends named the Glassmans. They borrowed $50.00 from them to get a start with their new life in Alberta, Canada.

Adolf and Emma then heard there was a homestead in Tomahawk, Alberta. They inquired and applied for a homestead. They had to clear a certain amount of acres a year to qualify for the title to the land. The land is located at SW-1-Twp-51-R-7-W5th. Dad and Mom and boys moved to our homestead in Tomahawk from Leduc in the year 1929. There were no buildings on the property so they hewed logs and built a two-room cabin.

Dad was a good carpenter and soon had jobs building for others which included building houses. He also helped build the Lutheran Church in Tomahawk, Alberta. In the late thirties, Dad was head carpenter when they built the Athlone School; Gus would help sometimes as he also enjoyed carpentry work. Sam liked helping with the chores on the farm. With his wages, Dad was able to hire two men to clear land for him.

Mom was a good seamstress and supplemented their income by sewing dresses for the neighbour ladies or sometimes she would also trade for produce, meat, grain, etc. Mom canned many jars of meat, fruit and vegetables to last over the winter as there were no freezers and no power. We can still taste her famous beet soup, pancakes, homemade bread and sausage. They also hunted deer, moose and elk. Those were the "Good Old Days" when we didn't have to lock our doors, not like the present time in 2001.

Sam and Gus walked two and a half miles to Ramona School through the bush. We would have to bang on our lunch pails to scare the wild animals away. We first attended Ramona School, then later, Athlone School. The teachers at Ramona School in the 1930's were Marion McGinn and Mary Hertel. Mary Hertel boarded at the Domke's and walked two and half miles to school. Mrs. Domke made delicious borscht (beet soup) and was kind enough to teach me how to make it. She also boarded other teachers. Teachers sometimes would have problems with certain bad boys who would burn the teacher's strap or break her yardstick.

Dad and Mom worked really hard to make a living in what they called the "Dirty Thirties". Their sons are grateful for being blessed with such wonderful parents. "God Bless You Both". Mom and Dad would also like to thank the wonderful neighbours they had when they moved to their homestead in Tomahawk, Alberta.

In the year 1965, Adolf and Emma retired from farming and moved to the town of Drayton Valley, Alberta. Then in 1966 Adolf's health was failing and he was bedridden for two years in the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Edmonton. I would also like to mention that Adolf and Emma also cel-

ebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in July 1966 with their sons, daughter-in-laws, grandchildren, and also Emma's brother Fred Rose and Tillie from Castle Rock, Washington. Sam continued farming until 1972 when he sold the farmstead to Gerry Duperron.

In August, 1972, Emma married John Metzger of Drayton Valley, Alberta. Shortly after they got married they went to stay in the Shangri-La Lodge in Drayton Valley, Alberta. In September, 1976, things did not work out, so she was on her own then. In 1977 Emma was having problems, so she moved to the Jubilee Lodge in Edmonton for about a year until her passing in May, 1978.

Gus married Glara (Trawny) in October 1950 at St. John's Lutheran in Ardrossan, Alberta. They were blessed with six daughters and one son. Gus and Clara live on a farm east of Sherwood Park, Alberta. Gus has been involved in the building business since the late 1940's until 1990 when he had a heart attack. He is now retired and has a hobby doing woodwork for his children and grandchildren.

Sam married Dorothy (Duckett) Ward in July 1965 and had two daughters. They lived on three acres of the home quarter in Tomahawk, Alberta. Besides operating the farm, Sam worked quite a few years in the oilfields in Drayton Valley, Alberta, when the oil boom started in the 1950's. Sam is retired and is enjoying gardening, curling and traveling. Adolf Domke passed away in October 1968; he was 82 years of age. He is resting in peace in Drayton Valley, Alberta. Emma (Domke) Metzger passed away in May, 1978. She was 80 years of age; she is resting in peace in Drayton Valley, Alberta. Dorothy Domke passed away in November 1997 at 60 years; she is resting in peace in Tomahawk, Alberta.

DAVE DONNELLY

Written by Dave Donnelly

I was born at Nugent, Alberta, August 24, 1921, took schooling at Lavesta, Alberta and worked as a carpenter's helper until 1942. I joined the army and went overseas in 1942. I joined the First Canadian Army Tank Brigade (later to be known as the First Armoured Brigade Co.) went to Sicily, Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. I was discharged in 1946. I worked as a carpenter's helper until I got my Journeyman ticket in 1949. I started my own construction business, D.G. Donnelly Construction Ltd. and worked for Canadian Oils at Rimbey. I then came to Alder Flats to build a camp for Canadian Seaboard in November, 1954. In January, 1956, I married Louise Edward and we lived in a trailer at the camp I had built for Seaboard. From this marriage we had 3 children, Leslie Ann, Michael and Peter. Louise died in 1969 and I moved to Drayton Valley and married Eva Henessey in 1976. There were no children from this marriage. I retired in 1988.

CLARENCE DUNINGTON

By Clarence Dunington

In 1930, drought hit the prairies where my family lived in Castor. It was impossible to buy coal to heat with, there was no crop to feed the tame stock and no wild game. My father had been to Violet Grove hunting and came back with stories of trees for firewood and building and wild game a-plenty.

On New Year's day 1931, I took the train to Edmonton. My uncle and I came to Violet Grove by truck, a day's drive. I took up a homestead on NW 15-48-8. That winter and the winter of 1932 Adolph Landsiedel and I cut logs to build a house for me and others who had homesteads. The trees that had been such an attraction to the area now had to be cut down to build roads and building sites. There were no roads from Violet Grove to our homestead, just trails cut through the bush and just wide enough for a sleigh as they were made for winter travel. If you were lucky enough to have a truck, you had to widen the road as you went along. We built pole bridges, small poplar poles laid crossways across bigger poplar trees, to cross the creeks. A hunter to the area jokingly called them "Roller Bearing Bridges". We cut a mile and one half long road through to my uncle's homestead, removing rotten logs that were from two to three feet thick. Between Violet Grove and Drayton Valley the road was a series of corduroy, about four inch poles laid in low spots and muskeg. During the summer, most of us would leave during the summer to find work to have some money for the next winter, so we could make improvements on our homesteads. In 1933, my dad, mom and the rest of the family moved here and took up a homestead.

Corduroy base for dirt road

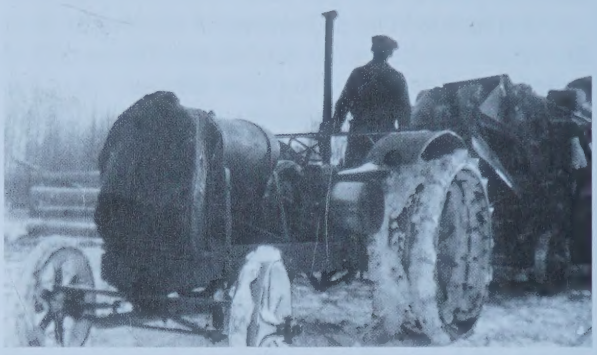
By 1935, there were enough children in the area that we felt the need for a school. Mr. Mattson donated three acres of land, my brother and I cut the logs and the neighbours got together, peeled the logs and put up the walls, roof and shingles. We got a grant from the government for hardware and some of the fixtures. The land taxes were paid to a fund to build and operate the school. On March 12th, 1935, it was passed by the trustees that five dollars of their land taxes could be worked off at the rate of one dollar per day per man or two dollars for man and team. In July, 1935, the trustees moved to put in a requisition for four hundred and fifty dollars to the secretary of the municipal district of Rocky Rapids, which was our MD at that time. We now began our search for lodging for a teacher. This was offered out to the community at thirty dollars/year for room and board. Mrs. Deby accepted a contract to teach school for a salary of six hundred and seventy five dollars per annum. We bought four cords of wood at two dollars per cord delivered to the school. A list of suggested names for the school had to be sent in but all the names we chose were taken. Mrs. Deby said: "Why not call it Dunington School?".

Bill McCallum and Henry Dunnington at harvest time

The school opened on November 22, 1937, in the Pembina District. There were 12 children registered. The schoolhouse became the hub of our community. The building served as our centre where we would all gather for whist drives, pot luck suppers, picnics, box socials, dances and Sunday morning church services. The Deaconess from the Anglican Church in Drayton Valley would come out to hold the service. The Christmas concerts were a big favorite of the young and old alike. Our entertainment and most special occasions usually included the people of the area. Lacking other entertainment, we entertained each other. This created a special bond in the community. Since no one had much money, we traded a lot of work and labour. In the late summer we would get together with a few other families and go up the Pembina river to pick blueberries. Not only was it a day away from home but a source of winter food.

In 1938, the Alberta Government took over control of all mines and minerals. The homesteads that were proven up, now became ours.

Mrs. Deby hired a housekeeper, Mary Bowkowich, and I went a-courting. On January 28, 1941 we were married. We had two children. Bill, born on November 4, 1941 and Kathleen, born on December 4, 1943.



Clarence Dunnington

In 1941, the ladies of the area formed a ladies group and sent care parcels to the men overseas. They called it the Dunington Ladies Group. This group is still active today with one of the original members still in the group. The meetings were very special to the women, as it gave them a chance to get together to relax and visit. Times away from home and work were not very frequent as travel at that time was slow. For us a trip into Drayton Valley came only three or four times a year; to the Violet Grove General Store maybe once a month. We received our mail at the Deby's home where the post office was related.

Blueberry picking are R to L, Cal Bartlett, Jessie Bartlett, Mary Dunnington, JoAnne Bartlett, Kathy (Kehl) Dunnington, Vern Bartlett, Jim Bartlett, Bill Dunnington

Farming itself at this time would not sustain a living. Clearing of the land was a hard and tedious job and all done by hand. The land had poor drainage and frost came early. I went to work as a sawyer in the sawmills in the area. Mary would cook for the crews in the winter. By 1952, the area was nearly logged out and most of the mills were closing down. We were ready to leave the area and follow the logging trail. However the discovery of oil in our area made it possible for us to stay and keep our hard earned land. I still live on my original homestead.

Shingle Mill, 1936

Good Hunting 1935, Clarence Dunnington, Clint Vickery, H. Dunnington, Abe Downie, on Halfway Flats

L to R, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. H. Dunnington, Mrs. Weichert, Ethel Hill, 1945

WALTER & MARJORY DURHAM

Walter Frank Durham moved from England, with his family, when he was five years old. They moved to Manitoba and then Kitscoty, Alberta. Walter met Marjory Law, after returning from WWI, in Kitscoty. They married, and moved to the Drayton Valley area with four of their six children. When they arrived, November 15, 1938, Walter and Marjory homesteaded two quarters (NE18-48-7W5 and NW17-48-7W5).

Walter and Marjory had six children. Mary Medwed, George Durham, Kenneth Durham, Mitt Durham, Art Durham and Iris Bierkos. Children from this area went to school in Violet Grove. The school was located SW25-48-8W5. This was a one-room facility that taught grades 1 through 8. The Durham children went to school on dog sleds in the wintertime and in the summer occasionally rode horses to school.

Margery and Walter Durham and Shirley Bierkos

Along with farming, Walter also worked in lumber camps and in the oilfield. While Walter was away working, the full load of looking after the farm, home and children fell to Marjory. After many years on the farm, Walter and Marjory moved into Drayton Valley. Walter purchased the pool hall. Marjory said he was there all the time so it was a good idea. They built a house facing the Rotary Park. Marjory loved flowers and had the front yard fenced with wooden tulips. She planted flowering trees as well as many different flowers.

In 1968, Walter rented the farm to his youngest daughter, Iris, her husband (Harold Bierkos) and their five children. After four years of renting, Walter sold the east quarter (NW17-48-7W5) to his

youngest son Arthur and his family and the west quarter (NE18-48-7W5) to Harold and Iris Bierkos. In 1984, the west quarter was sold to Don Bierkos and three acres to Shirley Coutu (Bierkos). The east quarter was sold to a real-estate developer.

Violet Grove School

During World War II two of the Durham boys went to serve both George and Kenneth. George came home but Kenneth did not. Marjory was given the Silver Cross and laid the 'Mothers' wreath in the Drayton Valley area, each year for the Remembrance Day services. She laid the wreath until 1996. Marjory was 96 years old and passed away the following year.

WILLIAM DUSTERHOFT

In 1927, when I was five, I came with my family to the Tomahawk area from Germany. In 1928, we moved to the Rocky Rapids area and I have lived there ever since.

Morning and evening, I walked to Ramona School where I got my education. There were no roads, just trails, through the bush to the school. I trapped weasels and shot squirrels to help get clothes for us to wear. We could always trade furs for groceries and clothes at Combs' General Store at Rocky Rapids.

The depression years were really hard for our family, but there was always a big garden and all the boys were good hunters. We never went hungry and were quite happy there.

My first job was building roads for the government. I earned twenty-five cents an hour and that helped to pay our taxes. During the winters, I worked in logging camps sawing logs, and later running a planer.

In 1946, I bought a half section of land from Jake Steffan right at Rocky Rapids. We farmed the land mostly with horses, but later we bought a second-hand 1929 John Deere, steel-wheeled tractor. In 1948, I married Cristel Schoen who lived just two miles west of Rocky Rapids. Our first child, Linda,

Willie and Cristel Dusterhoft

was born in February, 1951. In November, 1952, Dwayne was born but lived only for two months. That was a very sad time for our family. In February, 1955, Gerald was born. That's when the oil boom hit our area. For the next twelve years I worked for Mannix Company on pipelines, and tried to continue farming. When the pipeline work started to get further away, we decided to just farm and we've been farming ever since. We bought the farm that we are living on in 1957, from Cristel's parents when they decided to retire.

Our three children are involved in the oil industry. Linda married Robin Passmore on September 16, 1972. They have three children: Steven, Colleen, and Kevin. They are now living in Amarillo, Texas. Gerald, who lives in Drayton Valley, works for Esso, but also farms our land. Ron mated Regina Laminack on October 1, 1994. They have two children, Nicole and Ross. They are presently living in Houston, Texas.

Willie and Cristel Dusterhoft

Through the years I have thoroughly enjoyed the sport of hunting. In early years, I hunted with my brother, and in later years I hunted with my sons and son-in-law. Many special relationships and friendships which have lasted a lifetime began while hunting. Just as the Schoen homestead had been a stopping place for those travelling west beyond the end of the road, our house became a gathering place for the hunters at the end of the day after many hours in the bush.

Life on the farm has brought great joy to us. We both love gardening, and watching the birds and wildlife.

After a long winter, we eagerly look forward to all the splendor of the new growth in the spring. It is always a special joy to share all these things with our children and grandchildren.

We have never changed addresses. It has always been Rocky Rapids. On June 27, 1998, we celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary.

EDMUNDS FAMILY

Submitted by F.E. Edmunds

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edmunds homesteaded land west of Rocky Rapids in the Laurel School District in 1934. In 1938, their son, Dudley, took over the homestead while working at a sawmill owned by Andy and Perry Hystead. In 1939, Dudley married Frances Watson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Watson, who also had a homestead in the Rocky Rapids district. A son, James, was born in 1939 and later two daughters, Beth and Janet.

James attended Laurel School until it was closed and the students were bussed to Drayton Valley and he graduated from Drayton Valley High School. Beth and Janet attended school in Drayton Valley and graduated from Frank Maddock High School.

Frances and Dudley stayed on the farm. Dudley passed away in February, 1997. Frances sold the farm in 1998, and is now living in Drayton Valley.

TED AND MARY (URKEVICH) EDWARDS

Mary went to Edmonton and worked for the Federal Government. She married Ted Edwards from Rocky Mountain House and after a few years they bought a house and Mary stayed home to raise their family of three, Laurie, Roxane and Ted Jr. They now have five grandchildren and two step grandchildren. They are still living in the same house. They are both retired and love it all.

DOREEN AND DAVE ELLERY

We came to Edmonton from Fenelon Falls, Ontario in 1953. We had six children, Michael, Glenn, Colleen, Grant, Robert and Karen. We also have 12 grandchildren and 1 great grandson.

I worked as a carpenter around Edmonton and in December 1954 came to Drayton Valley. I started with Pembina Pipe Line in July 1955 and over the next 35 years was maintenance man, gauger, meterman, and mechanic. I retired January 1, 1991. In 1967 I was a team member for Alberta in the Centennial Canoe Pageant from Rocky Mountain House to Montreal, P.Q.

New Chev, 1956, by Dave And Doreen Ellery's 8'x24' skid shack at the Drayton Valley Western Trailer Park

Doreen has been active in the community with the United Church as Sunday School teacher from 1960 to 1980 and with the choir from mid 1970 and is still going strong. She also worked for 30 years with the town library. We still live in Drayton Valley and all of our family is in Alberta.

FRANK HENRY LAW AND FLORENCE ELLIOTT

Frank Henry Law was born November 8th, 1945 son to Francis Henry and Barbara. Frank married Florence Keewatin (Elliott) daughter of Rose Keewatin and Albert Elliott. She was born March 19th 1949 at Fort Qu'appelle, Sask. At first they had a little house on his parents farm. Loretta Ann Law was born to them May 2, 1967 and a son Frank John born August 3rd, 1972 at Malta, Montana, U.S.A. while on holiday.

Frank spent many years in the U.S. in various states. Florence remained in Edmonton. Frank remarried Connie Showalter of Nevada, only lasting a short time, and Florence married Monty Shilton.

Loretta had a son David Henry born June 17th, 1986 and later adopted another. Frank resides in Edmonton with Myrtle. He and Florence remain friends. Frank jr. and Loretta and her two boys live near.

CLIFF AND JOAN ERICKSON

Cliff Erickson came to Buck Creek to work for Pembina Pipeline in 1957. On September 13, 1958, Cliff Erickson and Joan Alton were married in Thorsby. We moved into a small three room skid shack in Buck Creek. In 1962, we moved to Drayton Valley.

We have three children and five grandchildren. Brent, was born in the University Hospital in Edmonton on September 1, 1959. He graduated from high school in Drayton Valley, then attended NAIT to become an electrician. He presently is the manager of an electrical contracting firm in Drayton Valley. On September 5, 1981, Brent married Linda LeBlanc, also from Drayton Valley. They have two children, Jeffrey and Jason.

Brenda, who was born in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton on October 10, 1961, graduated from high school in Drayton Valley and then was employed at Block's Food Store for eight years. She presently works as a bank teller in Drayton Valley. On July 3, 1982, Brenda married Robert Clark, from Rosetown, Saskatchewan. They have three children, Russell, Kieri, and Melissa.

Bonnie, who was born in the old Drayton Valley Hospital on September 21, 1973, graduated from high school in Drayton Valley, then attended Grant MacEwan College. She worked for an oilfield construction company in Spruce Grove, then moved back to Drayton Valley. She presently resides in Drayton Valley.

Joan worked part time for about twenty years for Sears, and is now retired. Cliff retired in 1997, after working for Pembina Pipeline for forty years. We are enjoying retirement and still reside in Drayton Valley.

CLAUDE AND HELENA FREE

By Grace Landers

During the winter of 1932-1933, Claude and Helena Free came to stay with us for about 6 months. Claude was working for Ross and Beard Lumber Co. in the Buck Creek area. They had one child, Ethel and were expecting another in the spring. They had come out to Drayton Valley to homestead in October, 1932. They had built a little cabin on their homestead, which was two miles north and a mile west of Drayton Valley. Bruce Free was born on our homestead, in April, 1933. Mrs. Jonzon was the midwife for the community. She came down on horseback. Later, Claude and Helena had two more children, Edna and Bernice. Ethel (Twerdochlib) lives in Edmonton, Edna has passed away and Bruce and Bernice (Rezewski) live in the Drayton Valley area. Claude and Helena have both passed away.

ERNEST AND VIOLET FORSYTH

By Gloria and Lily

To the best of our knowledge the following is a brief history of Violet and Ernest Forsyth's time in Violet Grove and Drayton Valley area. They arrived in Violet Grove in 1932 and took out a homestead, which they kept for many years and even had about one hundred head of sheep on it at one point.

In 1933 (not exactly sure of date) the Violet Grove School opened and Ernie was the teacher for grades one to eight. It was a wonderful school complete with cloak room, gas drum stove, and water pail with tap at the back of the class room and the wonderful sand table.

In 1933 their first daughter Gloria was born. In 1937 their second daughter Lily was born. They purchased about one acre of land from Violet's sister and brother-in-law Matt and Agatha Burnett. Here they built a small store. It was one half mile to the schoolhouse.Violet Grove needed a name and was decided (we believe Mr. Herb Clark came up with the idea) to call it Violet after Mrs. Forsyth and Grove after the many poplar groves in the area.

Eventually they built a larger frame house and store combined, where they sold most things folks needed from groceries, hairpins, soap, and gasoline to horse collars, their customers being the local farmers from Violet Grove, Pembina and even as far away as "the Brazeau", also the local sawmills came for supplies. In 1939 they moved to Drayton Valley where Ernie taught school and Gloria started grade one. Ernie taught one year at Easyford (date unknown). Back to Violet Grove where he taught until the end of 1946 to 1947 term.

They also ran the Post Office – Burnetts having moved to British Columbia.

In 1947 to '48 school term Ernie taught at Dunnington School in Pembina. Gloria was able to complete Grade nine. It had grades one to ten. In September 1948 they moved to British Columbia. Violet died in 1974, age 59. Ernie died in 1989, age 82.

While teaching in the one-room schools Ernie introduced his students to track and field along with baseball and many other sports. (He loved all sports). He once took as many students as he could to the provincial meet in Stony Plain in the back of a large truck and Luke Gerniuk from Violet Grove won a blue ribbon in high jump.

In 1939 when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth came to Edmonton he took as many students as he could to go and see them, again, in the back of a cattle truck. There was always a large exciting Christmas concert, blankets for curtains, but wonderful. He taught the plays, songs, helped with costumes, and taught us about art.

The library at Violet Grove School was always exciting, a wooden box with a lock filled with books which arrived every few months, then returned to be filled again and sent out by Early Mobile Libraries.

Daughter Lily was the first baby to be baptized in the Drayton Valley Anglican Church.

Gloria, Lily with George and Eddy Hines were confirmed in Drayton Valley Anglican Church by Bishop Barfoot who later became Primats of Canada. Their confirmation classes were taught by Miss Onions usually in the Violet Grove School. They eventually sold their homestead to Mr. and Mrs. Gadaun.

The school was so important in the community. Picnics on the grounds in summer. Dancers in the school with Josie Schmidt on piano, Lawrence Schmidt on violin and most times Swannee Johnson on banjo. Lantern slides were held at the school, meetings, and box socials. They were community schools long before the "community school" became a part of the education system. We're glad our father and mother were apart of that hard but wonderful time.

ARTHUR & INGA FROST

Submitted by Inga Frost

I, Ingeborg was born in Vang, Valdres Norway to Tortein (Tom) and Martha Kjorlien. My Mother and I came to Canada in May, 1931, to join my father in Camrose, Alberta. He and my Uncle Knut had arrived there in October, 1930. My parents worked on a dairy farm for a few years until my father got a job with Canadian Pacific Railways.

In May 1934, my brother Andrew was born and in March, 1936, Leonard arrived. I began school in 1937 and in 1939 my parents moved to Rocky Rapids to a farm two miles south of Rocky Rapids store. In July, 1940, my youngest brother Melvin was born.

Red & White Store – (in front) Inga Frost, Jack Tucker, little girl unkown

I received most of my education at Rocky Rapids school. Then I took grade nine and ten at Drayton Valley and grade eleven by correspondence. I worked at different jobs during my single years. I worked part-time at the Red and White store, where the 7-Eleven is located, for Erick Edholm 1948-1949, and also supervising students at Whitby School 1949-1950.

In the spring of 1949, I met a nice young man, Arthur Frost, who had moved into the area in April. He had been working in lumber mills out at the west coast, but work there being scarce he decided to come back to Alberta. In the meantime, he went to visit his good friends Gordon and Dolly Cole at Langley, whom he knew from Czar, Alberta, where he had grown up. Charlie and Dickie Swap were there visiting these folks, as Dickie and Dolly were sisters. Art also knew the Swaps from the prairies in eastern Alberta. Art told Charlie about his plans to go back to Alberta to buy a farm. Of course, Charlie knew of land for sale in the Rocky Rapids area as this was where the Swaps were living. So Art brought them to their home and stayed with them for the summer and worked at odd jobs. He bought a cow to help along with selling cream which was trucked to Edmonton.

Art Frost with load of wood

In the winter he worked in a lumber camp. In February 1950 we were married. We purchased the NW¼ 26, Twp 49, R 7 W5 through Veterans Land Act, as Art was a veteran who had served in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps from 1942 to February, 1946, until his honorable discharge. He had gone through France, Belgium, Holland and into Germany.

In the fall of 1950 our son Bernie was born. Art worked in the lumber camps during the winter while I stayed home looking after the farm animals.

In 1954, the oil boom in the Pembina Field provided a lot of work for the men. Art worked on drilling rigs out by Violet Grove until he got hired on with Mobil Oil in July, 1954. He worked as a battery operator until his retirement in November, 1982.

Our second child, Marilyn, arrived in the fall of 1955. A few years later, in the fall of 1966, Colin completed the family.

John Van Mall, Wilf English, Art Frost.

Bernie went to school one year at Rocky Rapids and then it was closed, so he rode the school bus to Drayton Valley. Our children completed their education there.

Bernie married Dianne Thomson in 1971. They have three children, Michael, Sherri and Heather. In January, 1996, Bernie and Dianne lost their home to fire. Very fortunately, no one was injured. They rebuilt on the same place. In June, 1996, Art and I became great-grandparents as Sherri had Shaye Nicole. Bernie works for Alberta Energy & Utilities Board. Dianne is a realtor with Venture Realty.

Marilyn married Robert Whaley in 1980. They have three daughters, Andrea, Kerri and Renae. Bob works for Pembina Pipeline and Marilyn works part-time at Rick's Source for Sports.

Colin married Paulette Kurylo in September 1998. He works for Norette Oilfield Serv. Paulette is a Licensed Practical nurse and is employed at the local hospital.

We always took our children on vacation to visit

Art Frost family, 1966, by the North Saskatchewan River.

relatives and friends, either to the west coast of Washington State, British Columbia and of course around Alberta.

When Art retired in 1982, we did a lot of traveling together and we both enjoyed it very much until his sudden passing away in October 1996. I continue to live on the farm at the present time.

Art Frost with his company truck.

OTTO AND HELEN GANSKE

By Eileen Arola

Otto and Helen Ganske moved from Northleigh, Alberta, to Drayton Valley about 1937 with me (Eileen) and my brothers Allen, Carl and Howard.

Dad had a grocery store and ran it for many years. After selling the store, Dad had a gas pump station a few houses from the store, right across from the school grounds. My teachers were Miss Wolters and Mrs. Deby.

After finishing school, I went to work in Edmonton at the General Hospital in the Diet Kitchen for two years, and then back to Drayton Valley where I married Larry Vickrey and became a housewife and mother of Clifford and Kelvin.

We moved from the Drayton area in 1964 to

Kelowna, BC where we opened a 24-hour drive-in restaurant.

I moved to Edmonton in 1973, then to Vancouver in 1978, then back to Kelowna in 1990. I married Eino Arola in 1993 and we plan to stay put here. We love the climate and scenery, especially as I now do oil painting.

I do miss my friends, relatives and memories in Drayton Valley, so Eino and I usually visit Drayton at least twice a year. Kelvin and Ginny (and children Corea & Cameron) live in Drayton. Clifford and Val (children Steven and Zackary) live in Revelstoke, BC.

OREST AND DONNA GAWALKO

Submitted by Orest Gawalko

Orest arrived in Drayton Valley in July of 1956, from his hometown of Thorhild, where he spent the first 18 years of his life. I started working for Pembina Pipe Line at this time and worked for the next 22 years for them.

Four years later I met Donna (Ladouceur), who was from Breton and previously Wildwood and was born in Styal. (She always says she was born in Style). We were married on September 9, 1961, in Breton.

Our first year of marriage was spent in Lodgepole and this is where our first child was born, Bruce on August 31, 1962. From there we moved to Buck Creek and spent another year there. In October of 1963, we moved into Drayton Valley and the following January our daughter was born – Lori on January 14, 1962.

Donna went back to work in September of 1968 at Frank Maddock High School – where she is still employed. We lived right in the town until December of 1976, when we moved to our current home on an acreage on the ring road.

Bruce finished high school and went on to the University of Alberta and obtained a degree in Geophysics and is currently employed with Ionic Energy in Calgary. He was married in December of 1992 to a Drayton Valley girl – Teresa Baumann – who is the daughter of Fred & Beth – who now reside in Red Deer. Our first grandchild, a girl – McKenna was born on May 15, 1997 and thrilled us all to death – as we were beginning to wonder if we would ever have any. Then it happened again on the ninth day of the ninth month of the 1999 we were blessed with another granddaughter, Cassidy, who is another joy of our life.

Lori also finished her high school in Drayton Valley (what choice did they have with a Mother working at the same school they attended). She also went on to the University of Alberta and obtained a degree in Home Economics. She spent some time in the Peace River Country as a Home Economist and soon returned to Edmonton and is now working for Sobeys (formerly Horne & Pitfield) where she is a Food, Sanitation and Hygiene Specialist. We have just recently had the good news from her and her fiancé Chris Mold, that we will have another wedding. It is to take place in Jasper in October of 2000. We are all looking forward to this special day. Again an occasion we were wondering how long would take to occur.

I am semi-retired doing a little contract operating etc. and also spending a lot of time in my yard where I enjoy puttering and planting a garden which I see to is weed free.

GEORGE AND DOROTHY GEDUHN

George & Dorothy Geduhn moved onto the old Ernie Forsyth farm ½ mile south of Violet Grove in August 1946, with their four children, Margaret, Charlotte, Frank and Irene.

A small flock of sheep that came with the farm was unprofitable, so a couple of milk cows were bought the first year and a good herd of dairy cows was built up. As well as shipping cream George worked in the logging mills in the winter and did blacksmith work in the summer to supplement their meager income. Dorothy passed away in 1993, and George in 1996, and after 50 years the old Geduhn farm was again sold.

All four children attended the Violet Grove School. Margaret and Charlotte were in grade 4, Frank would start school that fall and Irene started in 1948. Margaret and Charlotte later went to Dunnington and Frank completed his schooling in Drayton Valley. Irene was the last of the Geduhn family to attend the Violet Grove School, leaving in 1955 after contacting polio. Her next several years were spent in the General Hospital in Edmonton.

Margaret went to help her Granddad and uncle on the farm at Hemaruka, Alberta, in 1954 and Irene moved to the farm in 1961. They took over the farm, known as the XW-Bar Ranch in 1976 and have continued to raise beef cattle and still live on their Grandparents' original homestead.

Frank and his wife Susan live on a farm at Hemaruka, Alberta. Along with the farm, Frank operates an active taxidermist business and his love of hunting makes him an excellent guide. Frank and Sue have 3 daughters and 3 granddaughters.

Charlotte and her husband Robert moved to a farm at Sangudo in 1958. They started a vacuum truck business in 1968 as well as farming. However this proved too much, so they sold the farm and moved into the Village in 1982. They operate a

heavy-duty repair shop and CVIP Station and continue the vacuum service, and now are busier than ever. They have 3 sons and 2 daughters, as well as 7 grandchildren. They hope to be able to travel when they retire.

VIVIAN GETZINGER NEE STORING

My adoptive parents, Eva and William Storing adopted me when I was six months old on January 13, 1930, and brought me to a homestead in the Pembina district. I went to Dunnington school up to grade nine, I took my grade 10 in the Drayton Valley high school, then left with my brother Doug to move to Dawson Creek, B.C.

In 1948 to 1949, I took a secretarial course. I graduated from secretarial school in 1949 from the Notre Dame College and went to Pouce Coupe and worked there for four years.I came back home, due to illness in the family, then worked in Propps' camp for winter, met George in May, we engaged in July, and married November 14, 1951, on George's birthday. We lived in Stony Plain for four years, then moved back to Drayton Valley.We moved again, to Easyford in 1963 and remained there until 1968. While there we had a store, post office, gas, and AGT. We then moved back to Drayton Valley, where I had several janitor jobs and worked at MacLeods for four years.

George and I bought a house in 1975. The house burned down on January 30, 1988, and we built a new one and moved into it – three days after my George passed away in 1988, with cancer. We had six children Lee, Valerie, Judy, and Lonnie, then along came twins Maxine and Mark. We didn't know we were going to have twins until three weeks before they were born. When I turned fifty years old I met my biological mother and several sisters and brothers.

I now have thirteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

HENRY WILLIAM GIDDINGS

By Dorothy (Giddings) Davis

Henry William Giddings was born in Somerset, England in 1895. He came to Canada in 1912, and worked on what was to be a power dam on the North Saskatchewan River where West Bank Water Treatment Plant now is. Drayton Valley was then known as Power House.

When finances for the dam were stopped because of the war in 1914, all the men were left without work so they traveled down the river by raft to Edmonton. There my father joined the Canadian Army. He was sent overseas and fought in Belgium and France. In 1919, he was honorably discharged in England, but in poor health.

Top Left – Janet Getzinger, Vivian and George with babies Kevin and Mitchel, Valerie, grand-daughter, Barbara, daughter Judy and Maxine and baby, Second Row – Mark, Mitchel, John, Bottom – Cheryl, Angela, Lee, Lonnie, Teresa, Tom, Eric, Michelle, Terry.

His brother suggested he join him in South Africa and farm. There he met and married my mother, Annie C. Boodle, who was born in Kent, England, in 1897. I was born in Natal, South Africa in 1925. My father wanted to return to Canada, so we sailed for England in 1926. We came to Drayton Valley in 1927. He filed in NE 24-48-7 W5, but he passed away in 1933. My mother and I continued homesteading until my marriage to Russell Davis.

One of our sons and daughter-in-law now own the homestead and reside there with their family. My mother now resides in Shangri-La Lodge.

ALEXANDER AND MARY GODUN

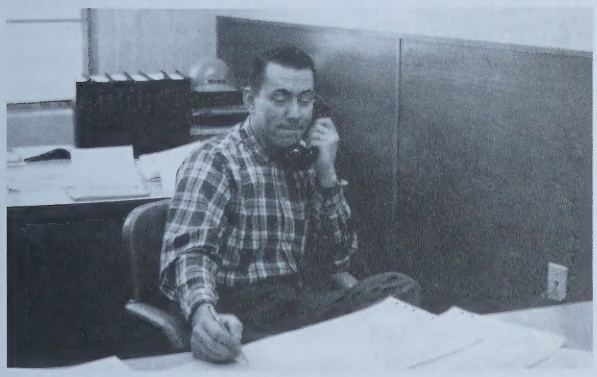
Alexander and Mary Godun (nee Demchuk/ Voiski) and their five children (some of the married names now – Kwasnycia/Shaw) immigrated to the Drayton Valley area (Tomahawk/Round Valley/ Easyford) and homesteaded there. They immigrated from the Brest-Litovski area in the Ukraine in 1930.

GEORGE & DOROTHY GOSS

Written by Dorothy Goss

George Goss was sent to Drayton Valley with Stanolind Oil & Gas in February 1955 as Material Supervisor. A camp was set up in Violet Grove on the Ball Farm. The office in Violet Grove was a small plywood structure. The living quarters were skid shacks and very rustic, four men to a shack, with a diesel stove for heat. You could see the ground through the floor boards. There was a skid shack that the men used to cook their own meals with the food supplied by the Company.

When the houses were built in Drayton Valley, the wives moved out in April 1955. The Stanolind houses were 760 square feet. Most of the young wives were pregnant and had to go to Edmonton to their doctors as well as to the hospital for delivery of their babies. The amenities were McGuinn Store and Nichols, the 70 sq. foot postoffice and Fuhr's Imperial Station.



George Goss at Stanolind Oil and Gas office in 1956

Wendy Lynn Goss was born May 5, 1955. Bradley Trent Goss was born June 22, 1956. We lived in Drayton Valley for two years.

No sidewalks or gravel roads were built even with our new homes, and we pushed our baby carriages through the mud to get the mail and groceries. In 1955 we experienced one of the wettest summers, so much so that a lady reportedly committed suicide.

A trip to Edmonton once a month for major supplies and doctors via the old road through Rocky Rapids, was often a major undertaking. This was a narrow dirt road, sparsely graveled. When the road was wet and you were approaching a Haliburton, Dowell or Schlumberger service unit, you drove in the ditch. They passed and then pulled you out so you could continue. Today's environment is a far cry from living in Drayton Valley in the '50's.

The short cut to Calgary across the Saskatchewan River in the summer was by ferry that was pulled across the river by cable. At one time the cable broke and the vehicles on the ferry went down stream. In the spring, crossing the ice generally included six inches of water on it. The sound of ice cracking was a hair raising experience in itself, waking children who were sound asleep in the back seat of the car.

L to R, Dorothy Goss, Mona Clarkson, Joan Last, Maureen Desorie and Joyce Coffin with their children. All the ladies were pregnant at the time. (We produced more than oil)

There were many transfers and company name changes. (Pan American Petroleum Co.) We were transferred back to Drayton Valley, now a nicely developed town, as office manager in October 1963. By this time there were doctors and a hospital, Hudson's Bay Company, two streets of stores, a swimming pool and a curling rink... a booming metropolis.

Our children were now eight and nine years old. The Goss family learned to ski at the Drayton Valley

Ski Hill. A rope tow took you up and gravity brought you down. The tow rope was maintained and spliced by the Drilling Company personnel. The primary skiing was done on Saturday and Sunday but various husbands would turn the tow on allowing skiing mid-week for wives and children. The ski season was 1 ½ months long, a far cry from mountain skiing. A real treat was to ski in Jasper.

Drayton Valley houses under construction. The white house was Mid Continent

The original golf course was in a farmer's field west of town where we generally hit more stones than balls. (Chipped clubs were the norm.) The present club is a vast improvement.

The addition of the swimming pool was a highlight and the Goss children swam competitively under the able coaching of Vic Timmins. The company name was now Amoco Canada.

Our son Brad became an architect and now lives in Lethbridge. Brad married a Montana girl, Cheryl. Brad remembers such good times in Drayton Valley that he named his son Drayton Allen. Brad also has a daughter, Gina.

Wendy married Bernie Woods and has three boys, Willy, Josh and David, and now lives in Calgary.

George Goss at the Drayton Valley ski chalet

AL & EVELYN GOTTSCHALK

Al was born in Edmonton, and raised on a farm south of Onoway, Alberta. After high school, he worked in a sawmill, drove trucks for Freightways, and applied to join the R.C.M.P. He was foreman for Art Voice Construction, working on the Whitecourt/Valleyview highway project, when he was stricken with polio in 1951, at the age of 20. During his 3½ years at the University of Alberta Hospital, he graduated from an iron lung, to a wheelchair. (Actually, fantastic progress for a man who was given no chance to live!) He met and married a nurse named Evelyn Werthenbach, from Unity, Saskatchewan. Following completion of his accounting courses in 1956, they moved to Drayton Valley, where he worked for Waddell Bros. Construction, before opening his own business of Accounting & Income Tax.

Al & Evelyn raised 4 children. Two daughters; Carol, married to Mark Reid, and Tracy, married to Douglas Fertig; and two sons, now in Barrhead; Jim married to Bev Koberstein, and Buzz, married to Louise MacCallum.

As a result of two sour gas exposures, Al could no longer breathe independently, and survived his last 13 years at home, on a respirator. He always loved sports, but his greatest happiness was his children and grandchildren. They certainly added marvelous challenges to his very interesting life.

LUDWIG (LOUIE) AND ALVINA GREGER

Submitted by Lena Haltli (Greger)

Ludwig (Louie) Greger was born April 10, 1898 in Tuczyn, Poland , Province of Rowne, to parents Ludwig and Julia Greger. He married Alvina Pedski on October 16, 1925. In August 1926, an uncle who had immigrated earlier to Canada, sent Louie the fare to join him in Verwood, Saskatchewan.

Leaving behind his wife, Alvina, and baby daughter Erika (Rita), he left for Canada. Once arriving in Canada, he worked on the Domes' farm with the uncle until his fare was paid for and he had enough money saved to send for Alvina and Erika. They arrived in Canada on May 14, 1927. While in Verwood, three more children were born. Alfred in 1928, Walter in 1929 and Lena in 1931.

Alvina had her hands full looking after the four children. Alfred was a sickly baby, with consumption (as they called it then). She always planted a large garden for fresh and canned vegetables since it was hard to buy medicine and food for a family of six.

They lost their house and possessions in a fire in 1932, so decided to move farther west to Bruder-

Alvina and Louie Greger

heim, Alberta, where friends were living and work was available. In 1933, another son, Harold, was born in the Lamont Hospital, weighing in at 11 pounds. Then there were seven in the family.

From Bruderheim we moved to Rocky Rapids, Alberta and lived with friends Bertha and Martin Richert for a short time. Looking for a place of our own, we moved farther west on the Easyford Highway to Pederson's abandoned log house. The roof leaked and when it rained there were pots and pails sitting all over to catch the drips. But for then, it was home. In the fall Louie went back to Bruderheim to harvest. In the winter he worked for Hysteads' lumber mill, a short ways from where we lived.

In early 1934, Louie filed for a homestead 4 miles west and ½ mile south of Rocky Rapids, SE of 35 T 48, Range 8 west of the 5th. There he built a log home, cleared some land and worked at any job to feed his family. In August, of 1934, another son, Daniel was born. That completed our family of 8.

In the late 30's, Louie helped build Laurel School where all their children attended. It was located SE section T49-R8-W5 west of Highway 22 on the Easyford/Cynthia Highway. Prior to the completion of the new school, Rita started at a school 1 mile north of the Laurel site, across the road from the Vengeloski's homestead. Louie also helped build the desks for the first schoolchildren, 1 room, all grades,1-8 and 1 teacher.

For several years after, Louie and sons Alfred and Walter, cleared land and farmed in the summer and worked in lumber camps in the winter, Plotts, Ed Olneys and Martin Richerts.

Then in 1941, Louie joined the Canadian Army and served a short while until he was injured and was Honourably Discharged. From there he went to Whitehorse to erect airplane hangars for the army. Alvina worked very hard keeping the farm going and the family together. It was easier now, as there was a regular cheque coming in.

After Louie was back home again, he and sons Alfred and Walter worked in Clarks' lumber camp for the winter. Toward spring he had his leg broken badly and doctored for some time. About 2 years later he had to have it amputated just below the knee and wore a prothesis the rest of his life. For years after, he worked for Pembina Pipe as custodian and Alvina babysat a lot in Drayton Valley.

Early in 1960, they lost their home and belongings in a fire and then moved to Camrose where they lived until his passing on August 10, 1983, at age 85. Alvina then moved to a Seniors Lodge in Edmonton until her passing on June 10, 1993, 1 month before her 93 birthday.

Back Row – Alfred, Walter, Lena, Dan, Rita, Sitting – Louie, Harold, Alvina Greger

Their children: Erika (Rita) married and had 2 children, Dennis and Sherril. Rita divorced, remarried and had 2 more children, Linda and David. Rita and husband Peter reside in Ryley, Alberta. Alfred married Alice Kidner and they had 4 children, Danny, Larry, Bonnie and Donalda. Alfred passed away in October, 1996. They were living in Agassiz, B.C. Alice presently relocated to Harrison Hot Springs near their family.

Walter married Betty Teunissen and they had 6 children, Ken, Debbie, Laura, Wesley, Calvin and Theresa, all of whom live in B.C. Walter and Betty live at Nakusp, B.C. Lena married and had 3 children, Arnie, Donna and Judy (whom they lost in a car accident in July of 1988). Lena (divorced and remarried) and husband Lorence (retired) live in Edmonton.

Harold married Jenne Teunissen and they had 3 children, Gordon, Randy and Margot. Harold and Jenne live at Galena Bay, B.C. They also own "The Pantry Natural Foods" in Mission, B.C. Dan married and had 2 children, Wendy and Brian. Dan is semi-retired and works as a consultant in the oil fields. Dan (divorced and remarried) and wife Pat live in Stony Plain, Alberta.

PETE GREGERSON

Submitted by Walter Turtiak

Pete Gregerson immigrated to Canada from Denmark in the early 1930's. He homesteaded a quarter section NE 20-48-7-5. He built a small log cabin and cleared enough land with an axe and grub hoe to get the title, which was about 15 acres. He worked on the Alaska highway in 1942 and 43. He returned back to his homestead, and sold the lumber that was on his land to Jack Sawyer. Then he sold the quarter section the following year. He bought NE quarter section 28-48-7-5 in 1944, then sold it in the spring of 1945. Then bought quarter section NW 30-48-7-5 also that spring, cleared about 6 acres, sold it to my dad March 1946, who then gave it to me. He bought NW quarter section 19-48-7-5 from Jim Trackwell in 1949, but Jim lived there for a few more years in his little house.

Pete went into partnership with Ted Boodle, logging small patches of spruce timber in the Lodgepole area. Pete worked in the Pembina Oilfield for about 12 years. In 1961, I brush cut about 20 acres and broke it for Pete. He rented the land out, stayed on the farm during the summer, and ent to a logging camp in northern Alberta in the winter. In the winter of 1963, I brush cut the rest of the quarter, 110 acres, and broke it the summer of 1964. He rented the land. He bought a small house and had it moved to his farm in the spring of 1965. He got married in the summer of 1965, lived out on the farm until 1969, then traded the farm for a house in Creston, B.C. and moved there that year.

CARL AND ETHEL GUSEK

Carl and Ethel Gusek were married October 14, 1933. They farmed in the Canyon District southeast of Lacombe for twenty-five years. During that time Carl joined the Royal Canadian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers, served overseas during WWII and was returned home on a hospital ship.

Together, they raised thirteen children and thirty-two grandchildren:

Kenneth (Gilberta) – Campbell River, BC – David, Rita, Theresa, Roland, Caroline

Norma Steer – Calgary – Frank, Angela, Karen, Rob

Myrna (Charlie) Nolan – Lacombe, AB – Charlotte, Kristin, Tom

Allen (June) – Drayden, Ontario – Kathy, Laurie, Rhonda, Phillip

Raymond (Betty) – Drayton Valley – Yvonne, Elaine

Leonard (Anne) – Drayton Valley – Darryl

Carol Simard – Red Deer – Brian, Barb, Brenda

Marjorie (Harvey) Jensen – Myrnam – Kim, Kevin

Linda (Ken) Hopfe – Drayton Valley – Wade, Tammy

Irene (Jerry) Obst – Drayton Valley – Eren, Justin

Twins – Janice Gusek – Calgary – Jeff, Heather

Jean Moyer (deceased) October 21, 1978

Jim (Roxanne) – Drayton Valley – Michelle, Amanda

1934 Carl Gusek on the far right – others unknown

Carl's lifelong love of hunting and fishing usually involved the use of horses. In 1934, while working on a large farm near Hughenden, Carl was rewarded by his employer with a trip to a hunting lodge deep in the wilderness – about 3 miles south of what is know known as 'A' Lease corner.

He recalls telling his unbelieving friends back on the prairie about the wonder of being able to easily move from the Hudson Bay watershed (N. Sask River) to the Arctic Ocean watershed (Pembina River) and back again.

The eldest son, Ken first came to the area in 1957 to work on the drilling rigs north of Lodgepole. He recalls the road from Highway 16 south to Drayton Valley was a real mess – by the time he could clean a dirty windshield with snow (he had no windshield washer), he had to duck down to avoid the next vehicle spray. For a week, Ken had to sleep in his vehicle, called a Borg Ward, in front of the Lodgepole cafÈ. There were no sleeping accommodations available because of the bustling oilpatch activity. He remembers on one of the streets

of Lodgepole, the vehicle wheels being so plugged with clay they could not turn.

In November, 1967, Carl and Ethel purchased the John Doliuk farm located at NW 36-47-8 W5. Moving west gave them greater opportunity to enjoy the hunting and fishing that they loved. They moved their family, of now five kids, into the two-bedroom house. The small house required the children, aged seven to sixteen, to sleep in very cramped quarters. For a brief period there was no phone and no school bus close at hand. Jim remembers the good times though, when neighbors helped each other get crops off while the women joined together to make a feast for hungry workers.

Carl and Ethel were very busy in the first few years living near Violet Grove. There were always cattle, horses and fowl to care for as well as land to be cleared. One day while dozing a burning root pile, Carl tried to back up and backed right out of the cat tracks. He ran to get Ethel's help and then it was a battle to get the tracks back in place before the cat burned down. They did it!

Ethel is fondly remembered for the times she fed party-goers midnight dinners of elk and moose. She was always happy to make an early morning breakfast for anyone, complete with lighthearted stories. One recollection was of herself and her sisters bringing in the cows during a cool time of the day. She tells how they warmed their bare feet in the fresh cowpies.

Carl, a jack-of-all-trades, was always willing to lend a helping hand with welding, farm equipment repairs, and vehicle repairs, making use of what materials that could be scrounged. Linda and Ken lived on the farm during the years 1973 to 1983 and then moved into Drayton Valley. Irene and Jerry subdivided three acres in 1974 and lived there until 1995 when they moved to the Lodgepole area.

On October 8th, 1982 Ethel passed away at the age of 67 years. Carl lived on the family farm until January 22, 1994 when he passed away at the age of 81 years. Myrna and her husband Charlie purchased the property in May of 1994. Leonard and Anne presently reside on the farm. At the time of publication there were numerous great-grandchildren.

RAY & BETTY GUSEK

Ray and Betty Gusek live in the Violet Grove district on an acreage SW 25-47-8-W5 overlooking what was once known as Watson's Flats. Ray works for Weyerhaeuser as a millwright and Betty is a nurse at the Drayton Valley hospital. Their daughters are, Elaine who is employed at the Peco Inn and Yvonne who is a nurse employed at the Lloydminster hospital. Yvonne and her husband Don Waring live on a farm 25 miles south of Lloydminster in Saskatchewan.

Ray passed away at Little Fishing Lake, Saskatchewan on July 6, 2001. The following poem was read at Ray's funeral by the mourners:

It does not take a lot of laws to keep the world straight;
Nor books to write them in, because there are only six or eight.
The first one is the welcome sign, written deep in friendly parts.
Treat with respect all women, the same as you would your sister,
Care for neighbours, strays you find, and don't call good friends "mister".
Shut the doors when passing through, and taking all in all
Be just as rough as pleases you, but never mean or small.
Talk straight, shoot straight; don't break your word to man or foe
And always make sure that there is a track in every bit of snow.
It doesn't take a law or pedigree to live the best you can;
These few lines are all it takes to be a real man!

GEORGE GUSTAFSON FAMILY

Written by Doreen Gustafson

George was born at Viking, Alberta in 1931. He farmed there with his mother and brother for about eleven years. He went to NAIT for a year to take an electrical course. Then he worked for Viking Electric and helped wire many farm houses and barns in and around the Viking area, as well as the Brock Theatre in Viking. He also worked in a garage and with a plumber. All these trades have helped in many ways through the years, not only in other jobs but in building for ourselves.

George Gustafson with one of the propane trucks

In 1955 George and I (nee Doreen Bailer) were married at Forestburg, Alberta. We moved to Edmonton for about 6 months, but both being from a farm and small towns, city life was not for us. In June of 1956 we arrived at the booming oil patch of Drayton Valley. We made this area our home for 34 years. Through the years we have seen many changes, from sea of mud streets to pavement. Since Drayton Valley was just booming, places to hang your hat were hard to get, so we rented a two room 12 x 16 granary. There was electricity, but no running water, so you grabbed two pails and ran to the nearest well. The dust in the evenings would be so heavy you could taste it. We later purchased a 12 x 24 skid shack from Pool Construction. It had been used as a cook shack. With some elbow grease and some fresh new paint we thought we had a mansion.

When first arriving in Drayton Valley, George drove propane truck for Stewart Petroleums. In 1958-59 he worked at Royalite Service Station. Then for about a year George was in partnership in a garage, Purity 99, where the RCMP is now. After selling it he went driving propane truck for Industrial Propane until 1962 when we bought our own business. We operated under George's Propane Service Ltd. for 14 years. That was where Mohawk is now. We had bought property in Rocky Rapids in 1969. There, George built our first house and garage. After selling both the business and the house, we built another house and shop, ten miles N.E. of Drayton Valley, on NE ¼ 13-50-7-W5M. George then worked for Nowsco Well Servicing as partsman until the slowdown in the oilpatch. He went to work for Pelican Mills for a few years as an assistant to the purchasing agent.

1966 Klondike Parade, L-R, Doris, Judy, George and Doreen Gustafson

We have two daughters, Doris who is married to Ray Stuhl and resides in Rocky Rapids. They have one daughter, Catherine. Judy married and has two children, a daughter Donita and a son Dallas. Judy is now living on Vancouver Island and enjoys doing tole painting, which she is very good at. She teaches it as well.

In 1990 we decided to spread our wings and moved to B.C. for three years. We are now back in Alberta living at Viking where we started. We have many memories of Drayton Valley and enjoy coming back to visit now and then.

Back Row: L to R, George Gustafson, Judy Stewart, Doris Stuhl, Ray Stuhl; Front Row, L to R, Donita Stewart, Doreen Gustafson, Dallas Stewart, Cathy Stuhl

ROMEO AND SHIRLEY GUYON

Written by Shirley Guyon

Romeo and I traveled the rigs from 1953 to 1959, throughout Alberta and Saskatchewan. When we were in Drayton Valley area we found one of the last homesteads in the Easyford area – Sec. 12 Twp 50 Rge. 8 W 5th which was all bush. We bought a caterpillar and started clearing for a homestead site.

In the summer of 1960, we moved to the site with a trailer but with no power or water. We dug a hole in the clay to keep our milk, and butter, etc. cold. Only one night a bear came. Then we reused the hole and built an outhouse over it. The local residents of the area called us "the squatters" thinking we wouldn't last long, but both Romeo and I had farming backgrounds. I had gone to the Vermilion School of Agriculture.

We cleared the land and planted crops, a little more each year with the help of the children. Romeo carried on consulting with the rigs and coming home whenever he could. The children and I looked after the mixed farming operation. Romeo also worked at the Auction Mart. in 1964 we planted

1,000 trees around the homestead. Now they are beautiful!

The children joined 4-H beef and garden clubs. I was assistant leader for a number of years. We all enjoyed all the 4-H members and had many memorable times on our campouts.

Our children are: Valorie Harke lives in the farm house. Her sons, Patrick, a welder lives in Red Deer, and Jason, an electrician lives in Edmonton. Beverly and her husband Jack Tucker live in Grande Prairie. Jack is a carpenter and Bev is presently working on a family history. Son Russell is a truck driver in Red Deer.

Bartle Guyon is a journeyman electrician and instrumentation mechanic. He is ranching in the Easyford-Cynthia area with bison and deer. He is also a councilor in Division I and is currently the Reeve for the M.D. of Brazeau and chairman of the Reeves of Alberta. Isobel and Bart have two daughters, Morgan and Brooklyn.

Roxanne lives on a acreage with Roy Brydges and their son Tanner. They raise bison. Becky and her Husband Roger Bergley live in Sedgewick with their three children, Jessy, Amanda and Owen. Raccine, the oldest twin, lives with her husband Dave Houston on a small farm, west of Drayton Valley. They have two daughters, Richelle and Raelene. Ronald, the other twin, is a journeyman electrician and lives in Edmonton with his wife Carla.

On August 11, 1990 Romeo Guyon passed away. In December of 1996, I married Ron Goeglein and now reside in Tofield, Alberta

OTTO AND EILEEN GUZE

Otto Guze was born in Poland, July 15, 1924. He moved to Bashaw, Alberta, in 1927, with his parents, Ludwig and Amanda Guze, and his brother, Ervin, born May, 1926. A sister Elva (Mahaffey) was born July, 1929. The family moved to Drayton Valley in 1931. His sister Edith (Goober) was born shortly after the family arrived in Drayton Valley, May 1931. They had bought what was known as the Jimmy Taylor quarter. Bill Drake met the family at Entwistle. He also brought the Urchyshyn family at the same time. The Guze family spoke German, except for Mrs. Guze, who could speak some Ukrainian. The Urchyshyns spoke only Ukrainian. Mr. Drake spoke only English.

The family home burned down in the fall of 1936. They lived in a granary until a new house could be built with the help of neighbours.

Otto received all his education in what is known as the Eldorado School. He says they had to burn the school down in order for him to get out of grade one. Otto spent a lot of his younger years working in the lumber camps. He worked in Grande Prairie in 1942, Edson in 1945, then moved to Clearwater, B.C. where he worked for a few years.

Brother Harold was born in 1938 at home. When he was 2½ years old, he went with his father to a neighbour, Arran Bennett to get a wagon load of grain. He spent time in the house with Mrs. Bennett, then decided to go find his dad. He went out to the barn but couldn't find him. He walked back to the road then the wrong way. He walked through some pretty rough country, even crossing a creek. He was lost all night and he had traveled four or five miles. A teacher, Mr. Forsythe, found him by the side of the road the next morning. This was in May when the nights were cool. He was tired and thirsty. Family and friends were very glad he was found safe and sound.

Otto bought the farm from his father in 1946. The family then moved to a farm 2 miles north of Ferintosh, Alberta. He would go there to visit the family from Clearwater, B.C. It was at that time he met his future wife, Eileen McKenna. He courted her long distance and they married on May 13, 1950. They lived in Clearwater for 2 years. Their daughter, Sandy, was born in Kamloops, in March, 1952. She was 6 weeks old when the small family moved to Drayton Valley. This is about the time that oil was discovered. Son Dale, was born April, 1956. They moved to a new house built on the same quarter. Len was born in Edmonton, August, 1966. All three children went to school in Drayton Valley.

Sandy married Al Wright, in October 1979. They have a farm in the Tomahawk area. Al works as a consultant in the oil field. Sandy stays at home and raises horses, ponies, donkeys (miniature), sheep, pygmy goats, pot belly pigs and dogs.

Dale is married to Sherryle LeBlanc and they farm west of Drayton Valley. They have three children, a daughter Jamie, 12 years, sons Jordy, 10 and Joe, 4. Dale is an electrician and works in the oil field.

Len is married to Lorna Cardinal. They have a daughter, Terrin, who is 4. Len works as a dry waller in and around Drayton Valley.

Otto bought 2 quarters from Jim Gunn in 1955. The home quarter was sold to a group of speculators in 1974. A new home, yard and building was set up on the SE¼-19-7-W5 in 1974. The family has lived there since then.

Otto has always enjoyed hunting and fishing. One of his favorite 'old timer' stories tells about going with Les Tucker to Buck Lake to the rodeo. They traveled by bikes to the North Saskatchewan, built a raft and went across . They spent a night with

Search party that looked for Harold Guze, 1941

friends in a lumber camp. Went to the rodeo, then started home. They tied the bikes to the raft and started across the river. They were swept off the raft at one point by a leaning tree. They managed to get back on and continued across, arriving home at about 3 AM.

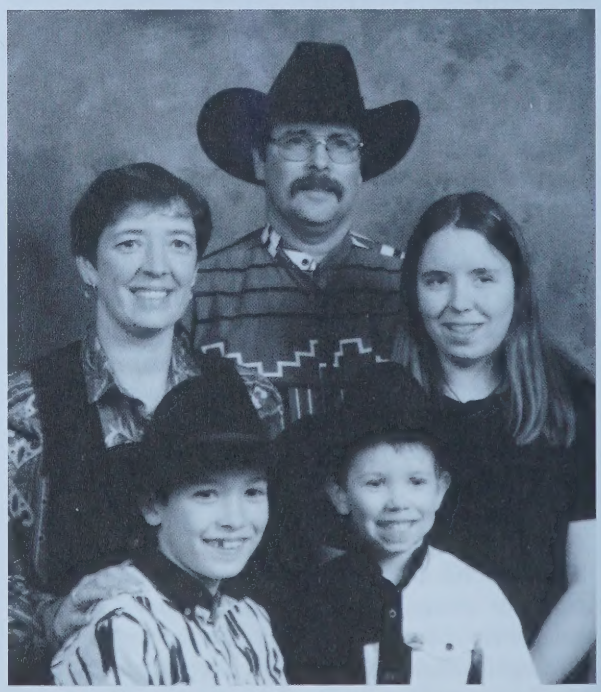
He tells quite a few stories about hunting squirrels and rabbits with Les Tucker and Arvid Erickson as well as a few others.

Otto served on a number of boards including the first hospital board, community hall board (now Elks), and was leader of the 4H club.

Eileen has spent quite a few years volunteering for the hospital Auxiliary.

DALE ROGER GUZE

Dale Roger Guze, son of Otto and Eileen Guze, was born in Wetaskiwin in 1956. He has lived in Drayton Valley all his life. He is a rancher and an electrician. He purchased his home quarter SE12-49-9 w/s in 1978. He had to clear and fence it as it was all bush. In 1984 he met Sherryle LeBlanc, daughter of George and Marlene LeBlanc of Airdrie, Alberta. Sherryle was born in Drumheller in 1957 and raised in Airdrie. Dale and Sherryle married in 1984. Jamie Amanda was born in 1986. Jordy Dwayne was born in 1988 AND Joseph Dale was born in 1994. They still reside on the home quarter.



Dale Guze, Sheryl, Jamie, Jordy, and Joseph

CLARENCE HAGGERTY

By (sister) Florence Malcolm

Clarence had asthma from the time he was a baby so he was not as robust as his brothers. However, he had a fairly normal childhood, and as

he grew up he was friendly and willing. When some visitors came, he returned with them to east of Edmonton where he worked on farms. Then he moved to Edmonton where he drove taxi for several years.

While he was visiting at home, a friend, Bill Block, contacted him. Bill was moving to Cortez Island, BC. Clarence agreed to go with him to drive a truck or car to help. He remained there, living on Cortez Island for a number of years, then in Campbell River, and finally in Vancouver where he drove truck for Ocean Fisheries. The damp weather of Vancouver was not good for his health, so he came back to Edmonton. He went to some good friends that he had there and since he needed some light work, they said to him, "Will you mind our children for a while?" as both parents worked. This suited him well. Their children, now grown, think of him as family. He then worked as Custodian of Duggan Community Hall for 16 years. Upon retirement, he lives in a Seniors Home in Edmonton.

FREDRICK HAGGERTY

By (sister) Florence Malcolm

As I remember, Freddie was the hunter of the family and helped supplement the larder with wild game. He did not go to school after reaching 14 years of age. There were logging camps in the area where his father worked. There he started skidding logs with a horse and progressed to other work as he grew older. He spent a few falls going harvesting. He was mechanically minded and could fix up old cars so they would run awhile longer. He settled on land in the Drayton area. He married and then raised three stepchildren, Pat, Ron, and Betty Cole and two of his own, Lee and Karen. He now has 8 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

After the oil came in, he worked for many years in the tire shops. When the oil first came, he spent a couple of summers working at operating a ferry across the Saskatchewan River until the bridge was built. As a hobby, he built a sawmill and in later years, two wood splinters and several small two wheel trailers for hauling odds and ends.

He suffered a stroke in October, 1997, which left him without speech or the use of his right hand and arm, but he can walk. He lives in the extended care part of the Drayton Valley Health Complex and greets his many friends with a big smile. He likes to give anyone a tour of the hospital and its beautiful grounds.

FRED AND ALICE HAGGERTY

Written by Alice Haggerty

Fred and Alice Haggerty and family of three children came to the Drayton Valley area in the winter of 1930 or 31, when they filed for a homestead. They lived for a short time on Mr. Drake's place, which was one mile from what was then Drayton Valley. There was a post office, grocery store, a school and best of all, a church.

Our homestead was seven miles from Drayton Valley. Fred built a log cabin on it while we lived at Mr. Drakes. He had help from other homesteaders as they exchanged work making it easier to erect the logs. Years of real pioneering followed.

Fred was able to exchange work for a cow and a horse as there were some established farms in the area, also. He also worked at some lumber camps, from which he got lumber for the roof and floor. I taught the children the 3 R's at home until there were enough children in the area for a school district to be formed and Clovertrail School was built. Four children were born on the homestead.

A good garden space and a small field were made out of the virgin bush and the title was obtained. This land was heavily treed and hard to accomplish much more at that time. A year was then spent in the Violet Grove area, as it was nearer to a lumber camp where Fred could work. The children attended Violet Grove school. When the summer holidays came, Gertrude and Freddie, having reached 15 and 14 years of age, also got jobs in the camp and did not return to school.

We then moved to the Pawluk homestead. This place was only one mile east of the original homestead. The cabin there had fallen into disrepair; the roof had caved in during the winter. The Pawluk family had moved and sold the place to Freddie. This place had a larger cabin, more land cleared and a better well than the original homestead. The school was 2 miles away through the bush. Our second daughter was janitor for a time before it closed.

By the combined efforts of Fred, Gertrude and Freddie, we now had several milk cows and some horses for riding and driving. We also had a good work team that Fred could use to work in the lumber camps. Our twin sons were born in this home, in March, 1944. A nurse from the Mission established by the Anglican Church, attended their birth. Previously births were cared for by capable neighbour ladies. Family allowances came into effect about this time, and were a great help. In July, 1945, the worst experience of all poor pioneering was the tragic death of our twin sons at the age of 15 months. Neighbours again helped us through this sad time.

Our youngest child, a daughter, was born in this home in 1946, giving us a family of nine children, They were not all at home at the same time, as the

older ones were away working, returning at various times as the need arose.

Then the Clovertrail School closed. Lois and Hazel traveled by horse and buggy to the Drayton Valley School for a time until we were able to move onto an abandoned homestead that we were able to obtain through the homestead sale. This place was only two miles from the Drayton Valley school. A small house was soon erected from lumber by Fred with the help of one of the sons so that we could move onto it as soon as possible to keep the children in school. This place had a small field and also a nice large garden. Improvements followed and it became a good home. This quarter of land has since been divided and three granddaughters and their families have homes on it. One of the granddaughters is living in the larger house that was built after the oil came in the early 50's.

With the discovery of oil, the small hamlet of Drayton Valley and surrounding area were changed dramatically. Of our family, 3 of the 4 sons, set up homes in the area after working in various places and at various jobs before returning to Drayton Valley. Freddie, Morley and Jim raised their families in the area. Fred has 2 stepsons, 1 step daughter, 1 son and 1 daughter. Morley and Beverly have 2 daughters and 1 son. Jim and Lorraine have 2 sons and 1 daughter. Gertrude married a surveyor and they lived in various places in B.C. Her husband died of cancer but she still lives in B.C. near William's Lake. Their family consists of 1 daughter and six sons.

Florence married a farmer, Ivan Malcolm, of the Tofield area. They still live on the family farm there where they raised one son and 4 daughters. Lois married Joe Harty of the Nanton area. They have a family of 3 sons and 1 daughter. Joe passed away in 1983. Lois still lives in Nanton and a few years ago married Duane Duncon.

Hazel married in 1957. This did not work out and after a divorce she married William Campbell of the Stettler area where they raised their family of 6 children. She also lost her husband to cancer. Sharon married Terry Celland, a man who always worked in the oil field industry. They spent ten years

overseas, returned to Drayton Valley for a time until he was transferred. They have 1 son and 1 daughter.

Fred died in 1967. I now have 34 grandchildren, many great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren. A family to be proud of.

TOM & MONICA HALLETT

To the army Tom was drafted and was shipped overseas. While there, during World War II, he met and married Monica Lillian Edgell. When the war ended Tom returned to Canada (Tomahawk, Alberta) along with the other soldiers; one who was his father Frank Hallett. Tom's wife, Monica, followed later with other Canadian war brides. As a young married couple, they lived with family for a few years. They worked together as cooks in coal mines, lumber camps and oil rigs before they moved to Round Valley, Alberta, with their first four children – Danny, Joyce, Janice and Edwin.

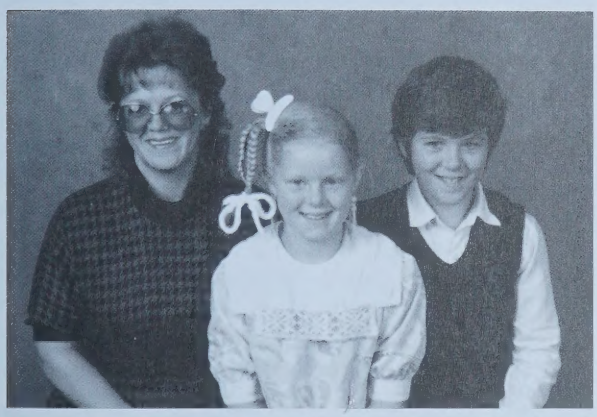
They built a home and started a homestead. As time went by, Tom and Monica (better known as Lyn Hallett to neighbours, friends and family) had five more children, Cathy, Marcy, Tina, Craig and Cindy. The four older children attended Ramona School. Danny in 1955, Joyce in 1956, Janice in 1957, and Edwin in 1958. Ramona School closed in 1960 and students were bussed to Tomahawk School. Tom and Lyn sold the farm in Round Valley and moved to Edson in 1971. From there they moved to Entwistle and lived there until the time of their passing. Tom died in December of 1993 and Lyn died in May of 1996. All of their children still live in the area.

LEOLA BLOCK AND DAVE HAMILTON

Leola Irene Block born September 22, 1955, married David Hamilton February 23rd, 1973 in Edmonton. Son Cory David arrived March 4th, 1976 there. Grandma "Rene" had another surprise when Joni Lynn her first granddaughter was born May 16th, 1977 on Rene's and Ricardo's birthday.

Leola Block, left, with mom, Irene, and sister Juanita

Leola and Dave lived in Edmonton and Grande Prairie. After her divorce in 1985 Leola went to college in Grand Prairie taking Office Administration while raising two children alone and working part-time. She won a $3,000 scholarship the first year so continued for the second. During this time she met Brad Wilkins. He drove taxi and played in a band. They purchased a couple of cars and did taxi driving for a while. Leola and Brad have sold their little Victorian home in Millwoods and are enjoying cottage life by a lake near Darwell. He does scaffolding and Leola is helping raise her granddaughter Jori-Lynn born June 8th, 1997 in Edmonton, daughter of Joni and Sol Anselmo Maja Lara. Joni works days in Edmonton and returns home weekends. Cory attended Grant McEwen College taking Massage Therapy. He has been weightlifting for many years, winning many gold medals.



Leola, Cory and Joni Hamilton

HAROLD AND WINNIFRED HAMMERLINDL

By Winnie Hammerlindl

Joseph Harold Hammerlindl was born in 1919 in Mantario, Saskatchewan. I was born Winnifred Jane in Alsask, Saskatchewan, in 1917. I chose teaching as my career. Harold worked in his fathers garage in Mantario, until he moved to Glidden, Sask. as an elevator operator. I met Harold when I was a teacher in Mantario, later teaching in Madison.

We were married in 1943. We bought a store in Sovereign, Sask. and stayed there for three years. Our first son, Donald was born while we were there. Harold then bought a store in Luseland, Sask., where we remained for fourteen years. In those years four more children were born, Glen, Margaret, Brett and Harold who we call Hal.

Harold decided to change careers and bought a motel in Lethbridge, Alberta. The family stayed there for three years. We sold the motel, packed up

Harold and Winnie Hammerlindl

the family and our belongings and moved to Drayton Valley in 1963. We took over the Triple S Department Store, situated were the Treasury Branch is today. This wasn't to his liking so he sold the store to Mr. Ziebot. Several years were spent doing odd jobs such as fixing bikes at the Sporting Goods Store and selling tickets at the theatre. He took a full time job at the Datsun Garage as the Parts Man. Here he stayed until he retired in 1984. Harold passed away in 1992. Harold loved to ice-fish, and drive his car. He would take a holiday anywhere as long as he could drive the car, no planes, trains or buses for him.

On arriving in Drayton Valley, the oil boom was on and school teachers were much in demand. I took a teaching job and taught for ten years, then did substitute teaching for another ten years. I loved being a member of a club, so belonged to Women's Institute, Anglican Church Women, Agricultural Society, and the Historical Society. After retiring from teaching I showed up every week at the Farmers Market for twenty seven years. I sold baking, plants and preserves.

Anglican Church Women. Back, Peggy Tyler. Standing L-R, Ellen Schultz, Miriam Roberts, Ethel Betton. Sitting, Rev. McQuaid, Mrs. Louth, Mindy Meleney, Hi Dahl, Marian Palmer, Winnie Hammerlindl

In my youth I was a Girl Guide and then a leader. I was a leader in the Girl Guide movement for twenty-five years. In Drayton Valley, I took turns being a leader for either Brownies, Girl Guides or Rangers. Many happy times including camping at Tangletrees on Pigeon Lake. I was chosen to be one of the leaders taking a contingent of Alberta Guides to Quebec for the celebrating of 50 years of Guiding in Alberta in 1972.

Mae Urchyshyn, Winnie Hammerlindl picking potatoes for Anglican Church supper

All five of the children graduated from U of A. Donald lives in Texas with Mary Ann. They have no children. He worked for oil companies. He has a degree in Petroleum Engineering specializing in Off Shore Drilling. He is now a consultant.

Glen lives in Calgary having worked for Calgary Power, Mobil Oil, Montreal Resources, Imperial Oil, etc. He has a degree in Mechanical Engineering. His special friend is Nancy Comers.

Margaret obtained her Bachelor of Commerce. After working for several companies, she married Ken Myroon of Calgary, where they have lived for many years. They have two children, Alicia and Robert.

L-R, Back Row, Glen, Donald, Hal, Brett. Sitting, Margaret, Winnie, and Harold Hammerlindl

Brett obtained his Computer Science degree, obtaining highest marks in the class and winning a $25,000 scholarship. He went on to get his Masters Degree. He worked in research and was with AGT and Telus for many years. He is still doing computer work. He married Donna Asp and they had two children, Andrew and Laura. After fifteen years they were divorced. He then married Lynne Relph. That marriage also ended. In 2002, he married Patricia Hertel. The family live in St. Albert.

Harold (Hal) has a degree in Commerce and in Business Management. He worked for fourteen years for Shell Oil, then moved to Deliotte Touche Co. He spent several years working in the U.S.A. He married Jan Thompson. They have two children, Jenna and Britney. They live in Calgary.

I feel I owe much to Drayton Valley, teaching, Farmers Market, Agriculture Fair, jobs for my children, Anglican Church and all the clubs I belonged to. Thank you, Drayton Valley.

SAFRONIE & JEAN HANAS

By Jean Hanas

Safronie came to Drayton Valley from Thorsby, Alberta, in the early part of 1963 to work for Panky's Enterprises for a few days. Well, his few days lasted to the present with a lot of changes and improvements over the years.

Safronie apprenticed as a welder when he

became employed full-time by Panky's, and on June 12, 1964, he completed his first year at NAIT. On June 13, 1964, he married me, Jean Cieslinski, also of Thorsby. We were wed in St. John's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Thorsby. At that time I worked for A.G.T. in the telephone office as a switchboard operator and continued working until November of that same year. We bought an 8' x 28' mobile home and lot from Mr. Achen, who was a schoolteacher. Our lot was located on 43rd street, in what was then the Mobil Oil trailer court, and that was when I moved to Drayton Valley. On March 28 1965, our son Steven Safronie was born. August 3, 1966, brought the arrival of our first daughter, Lorraine Jean. Soon to follow, Katherine Louise, made it into the world on November 30, 1967.

L to R, Kathy, Wayne, Safronie, Steven, Jean, Harvey and Lori Hanas

With our growing family, we soon realized that our little 8' x 28' trailer was too small. So, just before Kathy was born, we bought a 12' x 65' mobile home and had it moved onto the lot. That was heaven! I didn't have to boil water on the stove to do laundry anymore, as the hot water tank was only 8 gallons in the little trailer.

By now, Safronie had completed NAIT and was a journeyman welder. He had also just purchased his own welding truck. Rate of pay at that time was $7.00 for truck and man. We still have the first time ticket that Safronie filled out. He worked all over northern Alberta and was gone most of the time. In June of 1969, Safronie and Glen Ashmead, another welder, went into partnership and started Glen's Welding. They rented their shop from Gordon Lillico. In or around June of 1974, Glen retired and Safronie carried on the business. By this time the oilfield was getting busy and we hired two more welders. On October 31, 1977, we moved into our own building and also changed the name to Hanas Welding Ltd.

In 1978, we bought some land on the east side of the North Saskatchewan River and built a house. We moved into our new home on October 4, 1980.

The oilfield continued to be busy and we continued employing more welders. We were also outgrowing the shop that we were now in, so we bought three more lots right next door, and there we built a bigger shop and moved into it on April 1, 1991. Not only was our business growing, but our farm was too. We now have cattle, llamas and many varieties of chickens and birds. We have also purchased more land for our cattle.

After graduation, Steven joined us in our business and became a journeyman welder. He has since worked for Ledcor Industries at Lac La Gras in the Northwest Territories helping to build the Ekati diamond mine. At present, he is employed in Drayton Valley. He also has land and cattle in the area. Our eldest daughter, Lori, worked in Edmonton at Casino ABS in their corporate office as the Office Administrator and Accounts Payable clerk. She is engaged to Harvey Fleck, who is originally from Camrose, Alberta. They have made their home on the south side of Edmonton. Kathy, our youngest, married Wayne Nelson of Vermilion where Wayne and his dad farm together. Kathy works at Lakeland College in Vermilion. All three of our children attended St. Anthony's Catholic school from grades one to nine and graduated from Frank Maddock High School. We are very proud of our children, as they have become good citizens. We have not yet been blessed with any grandchildren, but are still hoping.

In the spring of 1997, after 28 years in the welding business, we made a big decision to sell out and retire. We can now enjoy spending time with our children and traveling. The whole family are avid golfers, so in the summer time the golf course is where you will likely find us. We belong to St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church where I have been a member of the C.W.L. for almost 30 years, and Safroni belongs to the Knights of Columbus.

Drayton Valley has been extremely good to us and we have made many lasting friendships here. We will always call Drayton Valley home, no matter where we are.

OTTO & NINA HANSEN

Written by Nina Hansen (Moroz)

Otto was born December 7, 1920, to George and Margaret (Gitzel) Hansen, who farmed in the Jordon Hill area west of Leduc. At an early age of fourteen, Otto set out on his own working for farmers in the Thorsby, Warburg and Breton areas, and in logging camps in Alberta and on Minstrall Island in BC. In 1947 when Leduc #1 oil field was discovered, Otto worked on the rigs in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

I, Nina, was born August 14, 1931 to John and Katherine Moroz, fourteen miles north and two and a quarter miles east of Drayton Valley; or, you might say, one and three quarter miles west of the Millbank School. That is where my parents, John and Katherine Moroz, settled when they immigrated from

Otto and Nina Hansen moving trailer from Stettler

Poland in 1930. I attended public school at Millbank and completed high school at Tomahawk. I worked as a waitress at the St. Regis Cafe in Edmonton, also as a sales clerk for the Hudson Bay Company downtown Edmonton.

On one of my visits to my sister and brother-in-law (Olga & Roy Prince) at Genesee, I met up with Otto. We were married August 25, 1952. At that time he was drilling for Cascade. We spent two years around the Content Bridge and Erskine area. We lived in a trailer, but not like the ones available now-a-days. This shack was only a shell – an ice-house. The meat stayed frozen under the sink cupboards all winter.

Word got around to the rig crews that oil was discovered west of Drayton Valley. In the fall of 1953, we bought a quarter section of land (SW-27-51-7-W5) in the Moon Lake area. This was Henry Netzel's farm and before that Fred Runzer's. In the early thirties that corner was referred to as "Runzers' Corner". Shortly after we settled there, the neighbors renamed the landmark "Hansen's Corner".

In February of 1954, we moved from Stettler to the farm. We fixed up a bunkhouse, 10'x16', to live in. That summer, Herman Ganske from Whitby bought the trailer for a house on his farm.

In those years there was only one road from Entwistle to Drayton Valley (now referred to as the old highway) which ran past our farm. With all the drilling activity in the Drayton Valley area, the traffic from Entwistle south was unreal. In 1954,1955, and 1956 the vehicles were pouring down the narrow road accompanied by the heavy rains during the summers which made the highway virtually impassable. Most of the barbwire off our fence line along the road disappeared, and so did the fence posts.

Otto and Nina Hanson, John and Debbie, Jeff and Craig

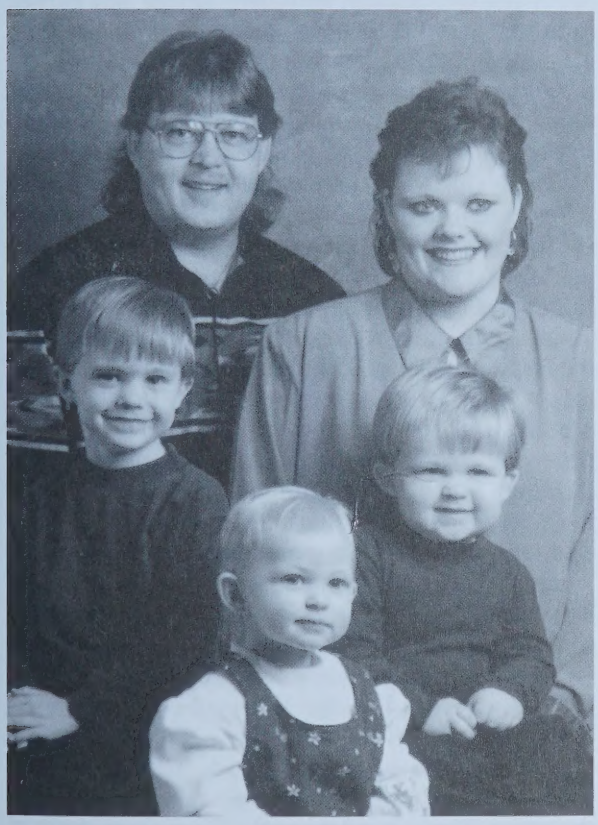
Otto continued working on the rigs. I'd pack a lunch that would last for three or four days because he didn't know when he'd get home.

Debbra Margaret was born November 8, 1955. The farm was our home base. Otto was away weeks at a time. In 1958 he decided that the oil field was not the way of life for us. Even the big bucks didn't entice him. Being away from home wasn't his way to raise a family. We decided to make a living off the land. For several years we milked 18 cows by hand.

After that we built a dairy barn to house 30 milk cows. Then came the feeder hog barn for 200 feeder pigs. Oh, by then we did get two milking machines. The skim milk was fed to the feeder pigs.

Jeffrey Herbert was born May 11, 1964. In June of 1970, we had a dairy dispersal sale. The dairy barn was converted to a farrowing hog barn. We then operated a successful farrow to finish hog operation.

In 1980 we sold a portion of our land and bought a house in Drayton Valley. The remainder of the land was rented out. During our farming years we did all our business and shopping in Drayton Valley.



Jeff and Shirley Walker family

Otto was able to get employment as caretaker at St. Anthony's school. Severe arthritis and worn out knees and hips forced him to retire at 66 years.

Otto was always involved with various organizations: delegate on the Hog Producer's Marketing Board; President and member of the Entwistle Livestock Co-op; he canvassed many-a-day for the Evansburg Breeders Association to get the A.I. Breeding (artificial insemination) started, and President and member of the Millbank Farmers Union Local. The meetings and Farm Management courses were held at the Millbank school. Earl Lowe, D.A. (District Agriculturist) for the Stony Plain- Evansburg area, was the instructor. All the farm management courses were free to the farmers in the early 1950's and 1960's. He was also a member on the A.D.C. Appeal Board Committee (Agricultural Development Corporation). Otto thrived on politics. He would campaign endlessly to support the candidate of his choice. The most exciting nomination was in 1989, when Tom Thurber, Progressive Conservative candidate for Drayton Valley Constituency, won over the Liberal candidate on the third ballot by 7 votes. Otto continues to be an active member of the Drayton Valley Elks #39.

As for myself, during the farming years, there were always the usual – chores, household duties and the children, plus the farm account records. I was secretary for the Millbank Farmer's Union Local for several years and helped out at the Moon Lake community events. After moving to Drayton Valley in September 1980, 1 worked at the Shangri-La-Lodge for a year. In June, 1981, I began a new career – Constituency Assistant to M.L.A. Shirley Cripps, and then to Tom Thurber, a total of 15 years.

In September 1994, 1 suffered a "coronary myocardial infraction" (heart attack). I retired after that episode, and am now enjoying fairly good health. I volunteer at the Drayton Valley Hospital Auxiliary Gift and Thrift Shop. I find time to relax and enjoy lots of reading to keep abreast on all the local and current events. Otto and I walk regularly on the track at the Omniplex.

Our daughter, Debbra Margaret, attended elementary school in Entwistle and graduated from Drayton Valley F.M.H.S. In 1974, she married John Walker, originally from Sangudo, AB. They were blessed with one son William Craig, born October 28, 1975. For most of their eighteen years of marriage except for five years in Kelowna, B.C., they made their home in Drayton Valley. John operated a successful oilfield trucking business (J.D.C. Trucking) and continues to do so to date. Debbie's battle against cancer (soft tissue sarcoma) for sixteen years came to an end Christmas Eve, 1991, at a young age of 36. Life is not the same without her. She was an inspiration to us all.

Our son, Jeffery Herbert, also attended elementary school in Entwistle and graduated from Drayton Valley F.M.H.S. In 1989, he married Shirley Ann Skjersven from Morinville. They have three children – Zachary Kenneth Otto, born December 4, 1991; Casey Brent, born October 5, 1994, and Sydney Debbie Ann, born March 12, 1996. They make their home in St. Albert, AB. Jeff is Sports Editor for the St. Albert Gazette. Shirley put her bank career on hold to care for their lovely children.

For the past twenty years, every fall, we've spent several weeks in Hawaii. Now we make frequent trips to St. Albert to visit Jeff and his family. We are planning a trip to New Westminster, B.C. by Greyhound Bus in May to visit our grandson, Craig Walker. We don't see much of Craig now that he is trying to make his own way in life. Thanks to modem technology (the telephone) we talk to him often. He does fly out occasionally to see his Dad (John Walker), us, and other relatives. We miss Craig terribly, but most of all, we miss his mother, Debbie.

STEFANIA (STELLA) LITWYN HARR

Stefania Litwyn, daughter of John Litwyn and Anna Popowich Litwyn, was born in Manastryz, Zuravano, Zydachow, Poland. She was born in the home and her Dad served as the midwife. The Ukraine became Poland. Her father was concerned about naturalization and had Sam, Stefania, Howard, May and himself naturalized, not realizing he had failed to include the mother. She was naturalized at a later time. They became British Citizens of Canada in 1936. Stella became a US citizen in 1956 at which time she also changed her name legally to Stella Harr.

The Litwyn's home in Poland was a house built above the barn where the animals were kept. This saved space, but was a little noisy at times. John and Anna decided to travel to the new world where they hoped to homestead and make a better home for their growing family. They had heard stories about finding riches in the new world. They packed what they could take with them and left for England about the end of April or the first of May. They arrived in England and waited there to board a ship for the new world along with others who were searching for a better life for their families.

Stella was five when she left Poland. She turned six in July after they arrived in Canada. While waiting for their ship, Stella remembers walking along a chain fence and seeing the beautiful blue waves on the other side and thought she could walk on them. She got through the fence and started toward the waves when a man picked her up and put her back on the other side of the fence. When they were on board the ship they found lice on the ship. Stella remembered one little girl who had long ringlets all over her head and all the little girls whose heads were shaved because of the lice. She didn't think it was as bad for her because her hair was more straight. She felt so sorry for that little girl because her hair was so pretty. Stella remembers her parents being very seasick and weren't able to care for the children. Her older brother, Sam, had to take care of the children. Sam was only 10 years old at that time. When the family landed in the new world they found that they had landed in Canada instead of the United States. Because the United States had their quota filled, the ship was sent to Canada port to dock. However that was okay because it was in the new world also. They were so eager to reach land. The family stayed with a family in Holden, Alberta for a couple of weeks. They migrated across Canada and settled close to Tomahawk and lived there for about two years. Her Dad then homesteaded on a farm about six miles from Rocky Rapids. Rocky Rapids was about 15 miles from Tomahawk. He settled his family on this farm and lived there with Anna and the children until they retired and moved to Edmonton in their later years.

John built a log house for the family to live in on the farm and they lived there until after Stella left home and was married. The logs used in building the house for the family were put together using Muskeg. This formed good insulation for the house. After Stella married, John and the family built the house you see in the picture.

Stella remembers that once her Father went to Edmonton to buy some horses. He bought two big strong horses and walked them all the way back to the farm, which was 85 miles. It took him three days to get home. Soon after they moved to the farm, Stella remembers them buying a cow so they would have milk. They bought the horses to use with the farming. When harvest time arrived, they helped their neighbors and in turn they received help also. The family put out a big garden each year, so they would have food for the coming winter. After the harvest the men all worked for the government clearing brush so roads could be built. This helped to earn money for needed supplies. The jobs they worked on were like the WPA jobs in the United States.

They raised wheat for bread. They would tie sticks on to a longer pole and beat the wheat out of the stalks. They would then take the grain to the mill to be made into flour so their mother could use it to bake bread for the family. The family picked wild blueberries, dewberries, and strawberries. The strawberries grew closer to the house. They grew in with the clover. They had to go into the brush and trees to pick the berries. The blueberries grew around the Jack Pine trees. Dewberries grew about six inches off the ground in the brush. Lilies grew wild over the fields. They grew potatoes, carrots, turnips, peas, cabbage, onions, garlic and rutabagas in their garden. They made sauerkraut out of the cabbage. They used a wooden barrel and shredded the cabbage into the barrel and added salt. They

pounded the cabbage with a mallet like those used in the crock jar used for churning butter and left it set until it became sauerkraut. They put a board across the cabbage and weighed it down with a large rock. The sauerkraut was mixed with rice and meat and it was called holupches. Holupchy were cabbage rolls. You would roll the cabbage leaves around the rice and ground meat and bake it. They also made pedahar which was like a pasta. They used dried peas a lot. They didn't have dried beans. They grew barley, wheat and oats.

Stella and her brothers and sisters attended a one-room schoolhouse. The school consisted of grades 1 through 8. They walked about 2½ miles to get to the school. They wore heavy mittens and socks made from wool thread spun by their mother on the spindles. The boys wore shirts made from linen that their Mother spun on the spinning wheel also. They wore rubber galoshes on their feet because it was very cold and wet in the winter. The stove in their school was like a barrel turned lengthwise. The students would bring potatoes, carrots, turnips, onions, etc to make soup for their lunch during the cold winter. It would cook on the stove while they did the morning recitations. They had metal bowls to eat their soup from. They would get their water from a hand pump close to the schoolhouse. Sam finished the 5th grade and Stella finished the 4th grade. She had to stay home and help her Mother with the smaller children. The boys all finished the 8th grade. Mary and Sophia finished high school. They had to go into Tomahawk to attend high school. They would live with a family in Tomahawk to attend school there.

Stella was sent to Edmonton to work at 15 years of age. She sent some money home each month to help the family with necessities when she could. She got a job taking care of a lady in a wheel chair. She tried to please her, but found it very difficult. She had no experience caring for a handicapped person and there was no one to show her how. She met a girl who knew a family who needed someone to take care of their children, so she changed jobs. She enjoyed this job as she was familiar with taking care of children because she had always taken care of her brothers and sisters. At this time it only cost a nickel to ride the streetcar which provided Stella with cheap transportation. Her next job was washing dishes at the Black Cat Café. After a few months, she was promoted to a short order cook. When she started working in a café, Stella and a friend would rent a room in a rooming house in which to make their home. Her next job was working as a bus girl in the Shasta Café and later as a waitress. She was working as a waitress in the Johnson Café when she met Bud. She was working in the Royal George Café when she had to quit before going to the United States to marry Bud.

Stella agreed to come to the United States since Bud couldn't go there. Bud sent Stella the money to buy her ticket on the train to come to Liberal, Kansas. Stella arrived on July 30, 1945. We were anxious to meet the young lady Bud had chosen to be his wife. Jane remembers she could hardly wait till the time came to go to Liberal to meet her. Erma and Mabel Vice had come to visit Mother and Jane and were also there. We all went to meet Stella. I can imagine she felt sort of overwhelmed when she met so many all at once. She didn't seem to mind and took it all in stride. Jane remembers being very excited when she opened her trunk and showed us all the things she had brought with her. Her Mother had given her some beautiful quilts and other linens she would need in her new home. Jane remembers getting sick and had to go to the Doctor right in the middle of all this and miss all the fun times. The doctor sent her right on to the hospital and she was operated on for appendicitis. Bud and Stella were really thoughtful and got married in Jane's hospital room so she wouldn't miss the wedding.

GENE & JENNY HARRIS

Submitted by Jenny Harris

We first arrived in Drayton Valley in June, 1956 with our one year old daughter, Joanne. We brought along our home, which was a 17' x 8' one-room trailer, containing all of our possessions. Our trailer was parked in the north-east part of Elizabeth Cabins, very close to the developing downtown section of the present community. We had no running water, just electricity and a small oil burning furnace. The trailer park had a centrally located washroom with laundry and shower facilities and rows of outdoor clotheslines – much socializing was done here and people were very friendly. The managers, the D'Amico's, were most accommodating and always ready to exchange conversation of the day. We frequently visited with Stan & Phyl Pajak, the Herrods and Dukes, just to name a few.

Gene was employed with Trident Drilling for a time and work took him in all directions out of town, where drilling for oil was taking place. Into these drilling areas, roads were built creating what seemed a maze, which in most areas, continues to exist today, but in far better condition.

Because drilling activity operated continuously, shift work was necessary. One was either on daylight, afternoon or "graveyard" shift. It was very difficult to keep a youngster quiet during the day when dad needed his sleep after working all night.

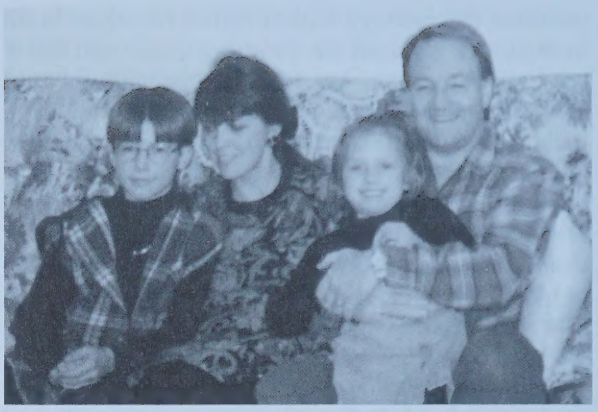
Gene and Jenny Harris

Other employment was considered and soon Gene went to work for Lane Wells, a servicing company. Work here required traveling to various oil fields, especially north to Fort St. John and the Peace River region – where we eventually moved. Our first stay in Drayton Valley, therefore, was short.

In May, 1957, we were transferred to Fort St. John. Hastily, we purchased an 8'x37' Champion trailer, factory built with two bedrooms, bathroom, etc. and north we moved. There, on August 14, our second daughter, Brenda, was born. Two years later, we decided to return to Alberta. Another youngster was expected and we thought it better to be closer to our families in Evansburg and Caroline.

In June, 1959, we moved into the Western Trailer Court which by now featured all hook-ups: water, sewer and electricity. Laundry was still done in the wash house even though many people had their own washers. Again, Gene worked on the rigs until we got settled.

Our son, Boyd, arrived on August 7, 1959, in the old hospital, which was actually quite new then, just in time to be a 30th birthday present for his dad. Since we were married on August 7, 1954, we now had three occasions on this date, and it became a very special date indeed. Dr. McClure, who delivered Boyd, suggested that I should consider returning to teaching since there was such a demand for teachers here.



Joanne, Richard, Dustin, and Jaimie Thompson

On January 18, 1960, 1 did rather hesitantly return to the classroom, to replace Grade 7 teacher, Peggy Tyler, who was replacing another Grade 7 teacher who had married over the Christmas holidays. Peggy also had a new baby and wanted to stay home with her.

I had only intended to return to teaching temporarily. With three young children at home, one a 5½ month old baby, I was uneasy. Mr. Tom McManus, the principal of the junior and senior high school, had indicated he'd certainly need me until the end of June at least. Thus began my employment with the Stony Plain School Division, which later became the County of Parkland.

My classroom was a one-room school which I believe was moved in from the country and present-

Boyd, Deb, Travis, Erinn, and Carley Harris

ly is the Museum. Thanks to 28 delightful students, among them Jim Eneydy, Fritz deGeest, Avalee Hazzard, DeeDee Hennessey, as well as all the rest, I was inspired to continue teaching.

High School, at that time, was the north end of Eldorado School. Junior High consisted of two separate buildings – one a two-room building moved in from the country once schools were centralized and bussing of students began. The elementary school, with Mr. John Gray as principal, was the south end of the old Eldorado School.

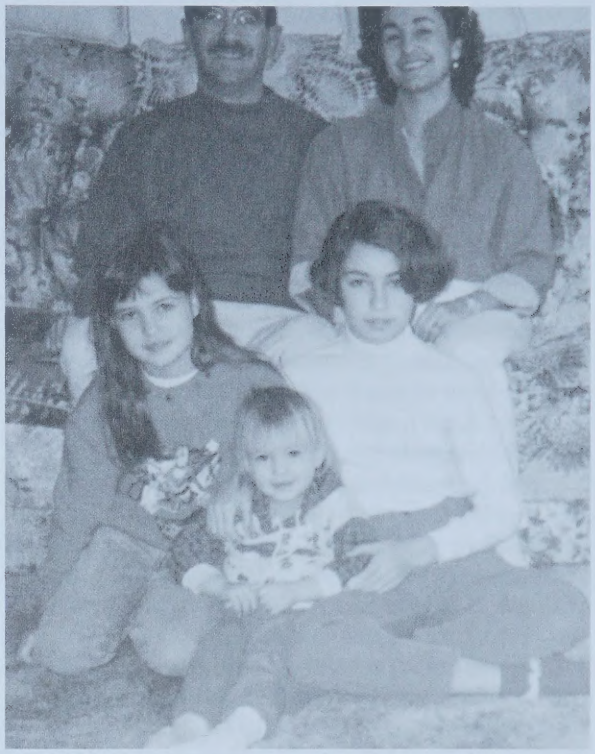
There was excitement in the air because a new high school was soon to open. In February. the first Frank Maddock High School opened its doors to the students of Drayton Valley. What an event that was! Not only a new school, but one with a gymnasium, science room, office space and tiled floor classrooms. Even more exciting was the fact that as soon as spring came, this high school building would be extended to include a junior high school wing plus a library and shortly afterwards, an area for household economics and shop. I continued teaching in the junior high school until retirement in June, 1986.

Not only did growth continue in school buildings, but residential and business areas grew as well. Company leases in remote areas began to move their houses into town, bringing more people, requiring more services and more homes.

We purchased property close to the new high school, where we eventually built a house and where I continue to live today. Not only was this lot convenient to the school but close to the best babysitter in town, Milda Berlinguette, who lived nearby. Our three children loved their babysitter and so did we.

Gene continued to be employed in the community, first in oilfield construction, then in pipelining and later selling Fuller Brush in and around Drayton Valley. In 1966, he purchased a lunch wagon, Drayton Valley Catering, and began nine years of catering to company coffee breaks in various places in town until 1975. This also included the lunch counter at Sekura's Auction Market.

The event that stands out in my mind with this type of catering, was the first rodeo in Drayton Valley which took place at the auction grounds and required mobile concession facilities. This consisted of propane hot plates, hot sun and lots of wind which fanned the hot plate flames in any direction but straight up – as a result it made it hard to boil wieners and fry onions fast enough to keep up with the demand. We did manage though. What was most challenging was serving the ice-cream. At first it was frozen too hard to scrape easily, then in no time at all it became too soft – fortunately, thanks to good weather, the demand was great. The fingers were blistered, but the work was enjoyable and what a crowd came.



Orville, Brenda, Christie, Alana and Jacqueline Cole

In 1975, Gene sold the catering business to Garry & Alice Berger and Elizabeth Pohling took over the Auction concession. He then purchased a small John Deere caterpillar, complete with truck and trailer and went into construction work. A year later he purchased a larger truck and 'cat' and continued to operate as 'Gene's Cat Service' until January, 1994, when he sold the business to Duane Neal of Caroline.

Gene was very involved with the Lions Club in Drayton, especially with the Eye Bank and the Recycling project. He enjoyed volunteer work, working with and helping people and his last experience was during the Town's winter games in February, 1994. Unfortunately, shortly afterwards, Gene became very ill, lapsed into a coma and passed away March 02, 1994.

Our children enjoyed growing up in Drayton Valley. They attended both St. Anthony's and Frank Maddock schools.

Joanne worked for Trans Alta (formerly Calgary Power) and Mobil Oil here in Drayton Valley for many years. She is presently married to Richard Thompson, has two children, Dustin and Jaimie and resides in Edmonton.

Gene Harris and truck used for Gene's Cat Service

Brenda went on to receive her Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Alberta in 1980. She is married to Orville Cole and presently lives in Calgary. She and Orville have three daughters – Christie, Jacqueline and Alana.

Boyd pursued a career in air conditioning & refrigeration through NAIT. He married Debra Hartwick in 1980 and just recently transferred from Ardrossan to Calgary where he is employed in sales with Coral Engineering Ltd. They have two daughters, Erinn and Carley and a son, Travis.

I have many pleasant memories of Drayton Valley; the 'new' outdoor swimming pool, the Centennial arena, shopping for treats at Bambies or Mike's, or groceries at the Bay or the Red and White. There always was and still is a new business or residential area developing. As the town grows and develops, so do the friendships, as the residents work together to shape and mold a community where I still make my home.

BARRY AND DOREEN HARRISON

Barry, Doreen and nine-month old Bruce Harrison first arrived in Drayton Valley from Graysville, Manitoba, in the fall of 1956, with the idea of looking for winter work. We had heard of the oil boom in Alberta from brother Wes Harrison, who had come out earlier with Lyle Owen. Both were already working in the oil industry when we arrived. Wes was working for Mobil Oil and Lyle for National Tank.

We had packed the basic necessities into our '49 Ford and headed West along with Barry's brother Alan, who was also looking for work. From Calgary we headed North and cut across at Lacombe, through Breton and Buck Creek, toward the ferry that would take us over the Saskatchewan River. It was late at night when we hit the ferry and were not sure where to go from there. A friendly lady said: "Just follow me". It proved to be easier said than done, as she disappeared in a cloud of dust ahead of

Charlie D'Amico, manager of Elizabeth Cabins in 1956

us. Wes had told us to find him at the Elizabeth Cabins, just West of the hotel. He had just come home from working the afternoon shift for Mobil Oil, but he was prepared for us to stay with him.

This first home in Drayton Valley; a skid shack with two rooms, was shared with Wes. Alan bunked in with some other follows in one of the other cabins. No running water in these cabins!! There was a central building that contained men's and ladies' toilets and showers. There was a laundry room with one wringer washer and tubs. The managers were Charlie and Celine D'Amico who had moved from Nordegg. Charlie played the accordian. It was great to have them as some of our first friends in this new community.

Life in Drayton Valley during those early days was without a doubt very challenging. The mud was nothing like anything we had ever seen before. Our plain old Manitoba rubber boots became "Drayton Valley Oxfords". Jobs were found; Alan with a survey crew, Barry first with a construction company and then with Mobil Oil. As winter settled in the mud left and was replaced with icy streets.

People were very friendly and were always willing to help out. As Manitobans who had never experienced a Chinook we ran into our first problem. In Manitoba it was common practice for farmers to kill a beef as soon as freeze up occurred and then it was stored in granaries for the winter (the original deep freeze). So why not make a wooden box and freeze some meat for all of us to use. We acquired the beef with the help of Ernie Lindskoog as soon as the weather turned cold and it was stored outside #12 Elizabeth Cabins. A few weeks later along came the Chinook!! While we were searching for deep freezes that could spare a little extra space, I'm sure many locals were getting quite a laugh.

Laundry days were challenging that winter. Not only did we have to wait our turn for the washing machine but drying clothes was something else. Most of the time the clothes were hung inside our little cabin. Where do you go when your house is full of clothes hanging to dray? To a friend's house who isn't drying clothes. The camraderie in those days held everyone together. We made many friends.

Doreen cooked and made lunches for Barry, Wes and Alan. She also supplied lunches for some of the survey crew Alan worked for.

The town was busy day and night, the hotel bar being the main place of entertainment. One night, as Bruce slept in his crib and Doreen was waiting with coffee and lunch ready for Wes and Barry returning from the afternoon shift, the door opened and there was a strange man covered with blood and barely able to stand. I was stunned but finally managed to blurt out: "I think you're in the wrong cabin". After what seemed an eternity, he just backed out and left. Needless to say that was the last time I left the door unlocked.

Outside #12 Elizabeth Cabins. Doreen Harrison holding Bruce.

Christmas that year was quite different. Shirley, Wes' fiance, had come from Manitoba to spend Christmas with us. We didn't have a lot of space for a big Christmas dinner, so we teamed up with Jim and Corinne Dix. One cabin served as the social room and in the other one we put both little tables end to end, which didn't leave much space. Ten to fifteen people filed in and sat down to a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Telephones were few and far between and we knew that our families in Manitoba were thinking about us. Fortunately, Corinne Dix arranged for us to get some calls through to our families that first Christmas away from home.

In the new year, Doreen found some temporary work in the office of Stanolind Oil and Gas (eventually became Amoco). A nice lady in the trailer court agreed to keep Bruce and he enjoyed the company of others his age. Wes went over to Devon and was hired by Esso. Bruce celebrated his first birthday.

Coming to the end of March, our time was up in Drayton Valley and we started to make plans to head back to the farm in Manitoba. A farewell party was held for us at the Lindskoog farm. We felt quite sad that we had to leave all our new-found friends. That summer we were pleased to have Charlie and Doreen Hemdon come from Drayton Valley to visit us in Manitoba. After the harvest was over we felt compelled to head back to the oilpatch.

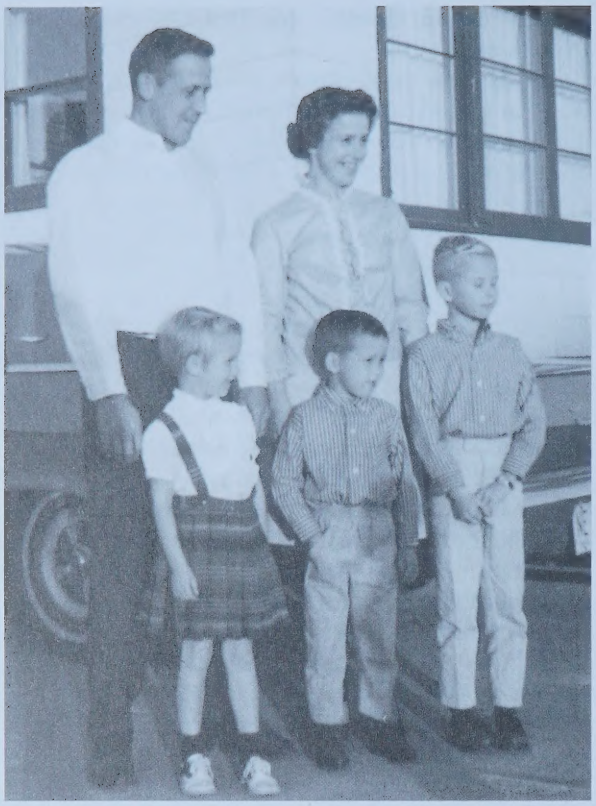
We returned to the oilpatch in the fall of '57. Barry started work with Andersen Trucking and we rented a part of a house in Breton. That November, Barry was hired on with British American Oil Company (BA) and we moved to Drayton Valley. We rented a skid shack next to Brown's Drilling in an area that later became the little Lions Park.

There was no sewer and water in this area yet. It was the custom to have a water barrel in the porch. The water wagon came around two or three times a week and filled all the barrels for a charge of 75 cents per barrel. Drinking water was obtained from a well in the area. Drayton Valley had grown considerably. There was more of a shopping area, a curling rink (with natural ice) and a bowling alley was also built. Still lots of mud!!

Doreen worked for Seaboard Oil & Gas and Bruce was ably cared for by Eileen Belva. We later purchased a larger skid shack on a lot on 50th Street, South. No water and sewer there yet, but we had the usual water barrel in the porch plus our own outhouse in the backyard. Drinking water was still carried from a nearby well. It was quite difficult for young workers to find a place to stay. For a while we had Ernie Ellert, a Pembina Pipe Line employee boarding with us in this four room "house". We were finally able to have a phone installed. However, the number we were given was one that had at one time been assigned to one of the local doctors. We had some interesting calls in the middle of the night.

Water and sewer lines came our way and Barry spent his days off plumbing the house. It was truly a pleasure to get rid of the water barrel and to have hot and cold running water, not to mention a flush toilet.

Darlene was born on December 20, 1958, in the



Top – L to R, Barry Harrison, Doreen Harrison. Bottom – L to R, Darlene, Daryl, Bruce.

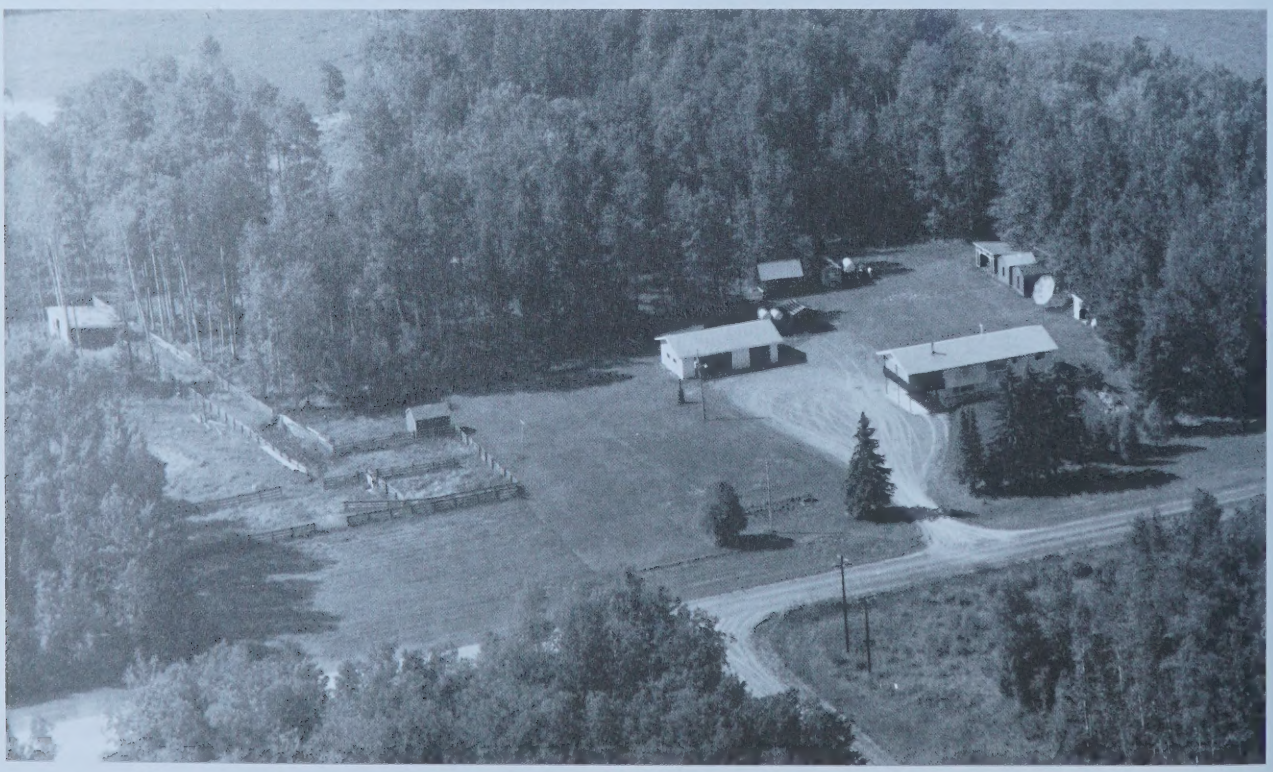
new hospital which had been opened in August. This ended Doreen's working days for a while. Darlene's health was not good and we spent many hours on the road visiting specialists in Edmonton. It was very helpful to have neighbours who would help out at these times.

Daryl was born on January 30th, 1960. It was a busy time with two little ones in diapers. We were also out growing our space. In 1961, we had the opportunity to rent Ernie Jensen's house near Rocky Rapids.

We lived there until 1963, when we purchased the house at 4816-54th Avenue, in Drayton Valley. Our family made many life-long friends in this very congenial neighbourhood. Drayton Valley was a very active community and there were many opportunities for a growing family. Music, figure skating and hockey were the most popular activities.

After the children were in school, Doreen went back into the work force part time. First at the newspaper office when Ron Smith was editor. Then with the School Board as a teacher's aide at the elementary school for a one year term. From 1969 to 1978 she was employed by Canada Cities Service in their office.

In 1973, our family was devastated when Darlene passed away due to complications of asthma. Our friends and neighbours were a great source



Farm yard that Barry and Doreen Harrison built on NE 1/4 13-48-9 W5.

of strength at that time. A memorial music award was established in Darlene's name at the Howard Pickup Junior High School. Funds were contributed by her classmates as well as by friends and relatives of our family.

In 1974, Barry purchased NE ¼ 13-48-9 W5M from Luke Gurnick. This land was formerly known as the Wallace homestead. Barry cleared land and put up fences. In 1975, we built a house on the land and moved out there in November of 1975. Over the years we had a cow/calf operation and grew some grain and put up hay to feed the cattle.

After graduating from high school, Bruce attended NAIT in Edmonton for two years. He returned to Drayton Valley and worked for Parkland Operations until 1987, when he enrolled at SAIT in Calgary for further education. After graduation he worked for Syncrude at Fort McMurray for a year. Then returned to Calgary where he was employed by Pan Canadian Petroleum.

After finishing high school, Daryl attended SAIT in Edmonton for two years. He was then hired by TransAlta and he has worked at dam sites at Seebe, Brazeau, Big Horn and Ghost Lake.

In 1978, Barry and Doreen formed Bareen Holdings Limited and operated under the trade name of Tools Unlimited. This business was operated from their home on the farm. Doreen worked part time in network marketing with the Shaklee Corporation.

Presently, Bruce is living with his wife and two children in Calgary. Daryl is living at Ghost Lake Dam with his wife and three children. Barry and Doreen sold the farm and now reside in Drayton Valley.

VERN & JOY HARRISON

Written by Vern Harrison

Joy was born in Lampman Saskatchewan in 1948 and I began in Melville in '46. We met and were married in Saskatoon in 1969 and moved to Drayton Valley in the fall of 1970 to take teaching posts at Frank Maddock High School which was situated in the building now occupied by H W Pickup Jr. High School. This was our first job after graduating from the U of S and we intended to stay for only a year or two.

At this time housing was scarce and teachers were transient so many of us stayed at County of Parkland owned housing and of course the Galaxie Apartments where most of us lived at one time or another. Musical houses was a game we all played; when slightly better apartments became available, a new round of moves would begin. I think we moved four times before Christmas 1970. Today we live north of town on Highway 22. Our family now includes Michael born in February, 1980, Benjamin in August, 1983 and Sarah in November, 1986. We still teach at the same school and if it is possible we will remain in this area after retirement.

GARRY & ROSE-MARIE HARTMAN

Garry and Rose-Marie (Knapp) Hartman were married in Edmonton July 3, 1958, residing in Camrose and Fox Creek for a short time before moving to Easyford. We moved in at night with our small mobile home, which Garry pulled with our car from Fox Creek. There was no room in the Easyford Park which was located on the old store property owned by Les & Inez Oscar. (This was when things were booming in the oil patch still in 1960.) Les suggested that we ask Don McConnell if he had any space for us. He did and we resided there for 6 years before moving to a farm which we had purchased north of Drayton Valley.

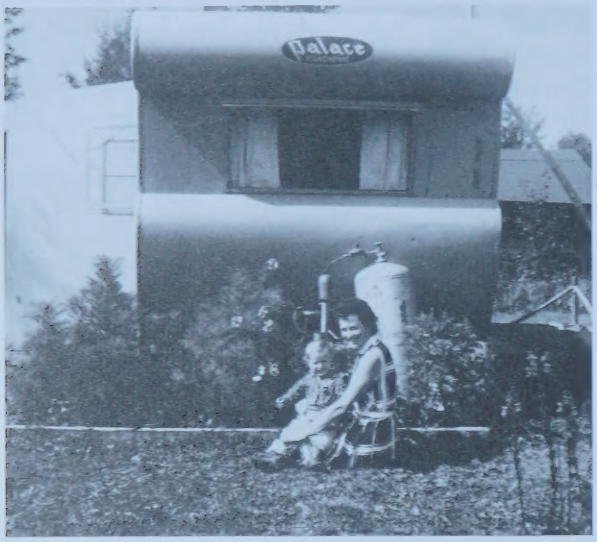
Garry and Rose Marie Hartman, 1958

We had two sons and a daughter, Lance, Greg and Tammy who are still residing around Drayton Valley.

Life was very different then, we did not have running water, phones and some of the conveniences they have today. Our activities were skating on the Pembina River and playing cards. We would take turns at having the Card parties in different homes if they were large enough. We never hosted a

party in our 8 x 26 home. In the summer, Easyford had a fantastic ball team on which Garry played.

Garry was employed by Canada Cities Service, which was bought out by Canadian Oxy until he took a retirement package in 1991. He then did a bit of consulting.



Garry and Rose Marie's Hartman's home 8' x 26' – 1960

When Garry first started operating there was not much for roads and he sometimes checked his wells in the spring with his horse, the only means of getting back into some of them, but most times was able to operate with a four wheel drive Jeep.

We also took time off to take four short term Missions, where we built homes in Mexico for those who had none, and to Barbados for construction on an old plantation renovating some property to be used for a discipleship school.

Lance and Greg Hartman having their bath, 1961

Hartman family holidays, 1970

Old Hutchinson homestead – Hartman's Easyford farm

Old barn on Hutchinson homestead

Drayton Valley has been good to us. We have all our children married and living around the town on their own property. We have seven grandchildren who we have had a lot of enjoyment from. We can still do sports with them and they include us in a lot of their activities.

We have just witnessed the coming of a new century (2000) and with this we are making some changes in our lives and moving to Camrose where we have purchased a home. God bless Drayton Valley and our many friends whom we have met over the years.

GORDON AND DONNA HAUKEDAL

Submitted by Donna Haukedal

Gord and I were married in Camrose, Alberta in 1954 and moved to Buck Creek in March of 1956, where Gord was employed by Hudsons Bay Oil & Gas Co.

Though we eventually learned to love the area, the initial move was something neither of us shall ever forget. On the move out, as we left MaMeO Beach, the roads (if one could call them that) were covered with several inches of heavy, sticky snow which kept building up in the wheel wells of the much overloaded 1954 Pontiac. Every so often Gord had to stop and kick the fenders clear.

I, Donna, had never been to Buck Creek or Drayton Valley, and it seemed to me that we would never reach our destination. Like a child I kept asking Gord: "How much further?" A feeling of hopelessness fell over me as we made attempt after attempt to climb the long curving hill west of Breton. We finally made it to Buck Creek, only to find that our trailer had not made it out. Fortunately, we had friends who took us in until the trailer arrived late that night.

The trailer court was the next shock. There was no grass, only gooy clay, a hand water pump, no sewer, a couple of one holers for all to share and deep ditches which were "someday" supposed to be sewer lines. Our small bath became storage space. We were no worse off than most of the others and we made the best of it.

It seemed to rain steady from spring to fall the first few summers. Trucks were pulled over the roads with cats so that the oil production could continue. The second spring we bought a small 2 room house and lot in Buck Creek. I had a garden spot, which grew the largest potatoes we have ever grown to this day.

The roads improved (somewhat) and a bridge over the North Saskatchewan River connected us with Drayton Valley. This was a big plus, however if we had always had the bridge we would never have had the experience of sitting for hours on the river hill in ferry line ups. Sometimes, we would wait for an hour in the line up just to go see a movie. We were never sure if we would be able to get back home by ferry as it was prone to break down any time or even have the excitement of a free ride down stream when the ferry would break away from the cable.

Before long Buck Creek became home. There is nothing that draws people closer than (dare I say) isolation and the sharing of both good and difficult times, or just the need for companionship.

Eventually we had a school, a community club, ladies club, curling club, Sunday school, youth club, ball teams, cubs and scouts and more.

Now we can look back and laugh at the struggles and inconveniences, but most of all remember good times and good friends.

Our son Blaine was born in 1958 in Camrose, Alberta. In 1961 we moved our small house to an oil lease, HB #26-47-7W5, where we could hook up to sewer, water, and natural gas and we could raise our sons with the bears and other wild life.

Our second son Shane was born in Drayton Valley in 1962. Lane, our third son was born in Drayton Valley in 1970.

In 1972 we moved to Drayton Valley. But town life has never been to our liking, so we returned to an acreage at Buck Creek. After 7 years there we bought 80 acres with a house on it, south east of Entwisle.

After Dome Petroleum's purchase of Hudson's Bay Oil & Gas and then Amoco's purchase of Dome, Gord retired from Amoco in 1989.

In 1992 we moved to Vancouver Island (near Comox), where we spent 3 1/2 years. However, the lure of the ocean and much shorter, milder winters, could not take the place of family, so we returned to Alberta and another acreage, 3 miles east of Entwistle, where we still reside.

In 1978, Blaine married Connie Scrybalo of Alder Flats. They have one daughter, Chelsey, and live in Spruce Grove. Blaine works for Manalta Coal at the High Vale Mine Area and Connie is a dental assistant in Edmonton.

Shane married Kelly Bland of Edmonton in 1983. They and their 3 sons, Ryan, Justin and Jesse live on an acreage, south of Evansburg. Shane also works for Manalta Coal at High Vale. After several years of teaching playschool, Kelly is now a home school mom. They are also getting started in the honey bee business.

Lane is engaged to Bernadine Feldberg. They live in Spruce Grove. Lane works for Edmonton Territorial Glass Ltd. and Berny is with an Insurance Co. in Edmonton.

FLOYD CLYDE HAYNES FAMILY

By Bob and Floyd Haynes

Floyd Haynes Sr. was born in Broadhead, Wisconsin in 1889, the son of Washington Irving Haynes who was a veteran of the US Civil War. Floyd completed high school and was then drafted into the American Army during World War I. He joined the medical corp but when he became gravely ill with malaria, he was discharged from duty. A few months later when it was discovered that he had, miraculously, survived his illness, he was drafted a second time and served again.

In 1922, Floyd decided to visit his sister, Amy, and her husband Pete Folmer who had moved to Whitford, Alberta, earlier. He drove a Model T Ford from Wisconsin to Whitford. Roads being what they were in that era (cowpath, really), the car was virtually a pile of loose bolts by the time he arrived. His car now wrecked, and with no transportation back to Wisconsin, Floyd had little choice but to procure work in the area. Besides harvesting, various other forms of employment were found. Eventually he served as the town cop in Mundare for a period of time.

Floyd Haynes Sr. 1946, at home place

In Whitford, Floyd met Florence Albiston, the eldest child of a family who had settled in the Whitford district in 1889. Florence's grandfather, Thomas Albiston had been an English sailor who, hearing of the wonderful opportunities in Canada, had come in search of gold but had wound up becoming a homesteader, instead. Florence's mother had died when she was a very young girl so the upbringing of her three younger siblings had become her responsibility. She was just the woman for Floyd: responsible, hard-working, resourceful, kind and devout. Floyd and Florence were married in 1924 and subsequently raised four children: Floyd Jr. (Sonny), Lucille, Esther and Robert (Bob).

The family moved to the Easyford district in November of 1934, with both Floyd and Florence taking homesteads, the NE and NW quarters of 34-49-9 W5th. They settled on the NW quarter, two and a half miles west of the Pembina River. Later the NE quarter was exchanged for the NW quarter 2-50-9 W5th, which was much easier to clear and break.

In 1935, they built a log house. Other farm buildings were built as required for the mixed farming operation. During the winter months, Mr. Haynes hunted, trapped and guided hunters who came to the area in search of big game. In the summer, all family members worked to clear and break enough land to feed the horses, cows and chickens and to produce enough vegetables to take care of their winter needs. Besides growing a garden, Mrs. Haynes always had colorful morning glories climbing the wall of the log house and a gorgeous cactus which was loaded with blossoms every Christmas – vegetables for the body and flowers for the soul! Blueberries were prolific in the area so they were picked and preserved for later use. In good growing years they picked and sold blueberries by the wagon load, providing a small summer income.

Until it closed, the Haynes children attended Elkhead School, which was located on the west bank of the Pembina River. Subsequently they attended Perryville School which was located one half mile south of the Easyford store. It was a long way for kids to walk and with no bridge over the river, school attendance was difficult.

Like many who lived through the depression years, innovation for the Haynes family was the key to survival. When there was no kerosene for light, they burned a tightly-wound rag which had been dipped in whatever tallow they had around the place at the time.

The Haynes' plowing

Because of the muskegs and low-lying land in the area, sometimes during the summer, for two or three weeks at a time, the road was impassable. On one such occasion, the two Floyds (senior and junior) loaded a boat with pelts from the winter's trapping and set out on the river to take the furs to

Entwistle. They maneuvered the current all day then stopped at a house perched on the riverbank and found that they still had seven miles to go! With rapids and the worst part of the river still ahead, they altered their plan. They left the boat to be picked up by Floyd Combs later when the road was fit to be travelled, loaded the pelts on their backs and walked the rest of the way to Entwistle. In the summer of 1944, the Pembina River rose thirty feet and everyone on the west side of the river was marooned, as the road (such as it was) was also destroyed.

During the years 1942 to 1945, several lumber mills (Boyko's, Richert's, Ball's, Udchitz's, Mastre's) opened up nearby, which provided employment for the two Floyds and Lucille as well. Lucille also worked at Combs' store in Rocky Rapids. This income enabled the Haynes to buy a 15-30 McCormick Deering tractor and a Case offset beam breaking plough. By 1946, they were able to clear and break enough land to get titles to both homesteads. Home free at last!

In 1947, the Haynes family began their own sawmill operation; first logging the available timber on both homesteads, then on two locations of Crown land nearby. In 1949, they moved to Wildwood and continued in the lumber business in the Wildwood, McKay, Edson and Marlboro areas. The entire family worked at the camps. Mrs. Haynes and the now-grown girls doing the cooking and other duties, and the two sons working at whatever was necessary to keep the project running. Most people in the sawmill business knew Floyd Sr. as 'Pop Haynes'. Many people who knew him well made references to him with amused affection. Pop's temperament destined many decks of cards to become fodder for the airtight heater after a rousing card game in the bunkhouse. Music, too, often filled the bunkhouses as many men who worked the mill brought their guitars, harmonicas or other instruments to the camp to create their own entertainment.

Floyd Jr. left the family business in 1952, and became employed as a long-distance truck driver. Sometime in the 60's The Journal devoted a half-page write-up about his outstanding driving record – over a million miles accident free! A few months later (wouldn't you know it?) the spell was broken and he was involved in a fender bender. Besides living in his big rig (as long-distance truckers do), since leaving Wildwood, Floyd has always resided in Edmonton. He remained a bachelor.

The sawmill business kept the other family members employed until 1953. Thereafter, Pop worked at construction jobs and at nailing grain and coal doors for use by the CN railway, until he received his old-age pension. He and his wife lived

Threshing in the snow December, 1949

in Wildwood until he passed away in 1967. A year or so later, Mrs. Haynes was moved to Red Deer where Bob and his family lived. She spent her last years in a long-term care facility and died in 1974.

Lucille married Alan Dombrosky and they had three children: Linda, Fred and Larry (PeeWee). Lucille worked at the Post Office in Wildwood for over twenty years and was highly respected in the community. She died in 1998. Esther married Harold Olesiuk and they farmed north of Wildwood. They had four children: Edith, Ken, Christine and Billy. Esther died in 1978 when Billy was ten years old. Bob married Margaret Cameron and they raised four children: Coleen, Kevin, Michael and Stephen. Bob spent most of his adult life working in the oilfield, primarily as a heavy-duty mechanic. He now lives in Edson with his present wife, Freda.

CLAUDE AND ELLA HELLYER

By Alice Drummond

This brief history of my family is a collection of my own personal memories and stories I've heard over the years.

My mother Ella, was born in Arthur, North Dakota, March 19, 1902 to parents Edward and Dena Ramstead, the youngest in a family of seven brothers, Gordon, Helmar, Alvin, Gunard, Emil, Anthony, Louis, and one sister, Emma.

At a very tender age in the early1900's, Ella moved with her family from the United States to Canada. The Ramstead family initially settled in the New Norway area of Northern Alberta. Amid rumours of an economic boom sure to follow the imminent start of construction on a large hydro-electric dam on the North Saskatchewan River, the Ramsteads moved to the Drayton Valley area soon after their arrival in Alberta.

In 1912, awhile after the Ramstead clan had relocated to the Drayton Valley area, my dad, Claude Hellyer, and the Dunn brothers, Sam and Jim, were departing from Devon, England seeking

adventure and a better life. The three fellows crossed the Atlantic, arriving in Eastern Canada with their meagre belongings. There they boarded a steam train that took them across our then new nation to an eventual destination of Entwistle, Alberta.

Sammy Dunn and Claude Hellyer

Once in Entwistle, Claude, Sam, and Jim pared down their outfit to only what they could carry in their backpacks and somehow managed to secure safe storage for the balance of their possessions. Finally ready for the trail, the three greenhorns struck out on a thirty mile trek through heavy bush, muskeg, and streams to their wilderness destination of Power House, or Drayton Valley as we know it today. We can only imagine that this hike was quite an adventure and just the first of many awaiting this enthusiastic but inexperienced young trio.

Aptly named at the time, Power House was thought to be on the cusp of great prosperity from the hydro-electric dam construction. Like the Ramsteads, Claude, and the Dunn brothers, others such as Harv Morrow and Jack Tucker were also drawn to the area with hopes of a brighter future to be brought about by this project.

Once at Power House, Jim Dunn looked over the area and situation and decided it was not what he wanted. Jim returned to Entwistle and went on to Barrhead, Alberta where he acquired land close to a highway and the railroad. Jim farmed for many years until his retirement in Victoria, B.C. and like his brother Sam, never married.

Unfortunately for the many awaiting the construction boom in Power House, the First World War broke out resulting in plans for the dam project being put on hold and ultimately cancelled. With the outbreak of World War I, Claude joined the army and was stationed in Edmonton. It was Claude's hope that this new adventure would give him the opportunity to get back home to see his mother and five sisters in England. During basic training, Claude developed what was called inflammatory rheumatism in those days. This illness resulted in Claude's discharge from the army, dashing his hopes for an early return to England and plaguing him with pain for the balance of his lifetime. With Claude unable to return to England until 1960, I recall the arrival of a letter bringing the sad news of his mother and eldest sister's passing during his long absence.

As was customary in the earlier years of the 20th century, young people often courted at quite an early age. As a very beautiful young woman, Ella was no exception and she was courted by a dapper young bachelor, Claude Hellyer, who like many of his contemporaries, had recently emigrated to Canada from England in search of a new life here. The romance bloomed and Ella and Claude were married in 1920.

At that time, life in rural Alberta was very much a challenge to carve out a home and living from what was still largely unsettled wilderness without the many luxuries and amenities we take for granted today. As testament to this, Ella's first home with Claude was a small log cabin in the forest northwest of the hamlet of Drayton Valley. Over time, Ella and Claude cleared, broke, and cultivated a full quarter section of land without benefit of machinery.

Despite the challenges of day-to-day living, Ella and Claude had established themselves well enough to begin their family after about four years on the homestead. Between 1924 and 1935, Ella and Claude were blessed with three daughters, Alice was their first-born, followed by Elsie and Eileen.

In approximately 1933 the family moved into a new two-storey house Claude built with hewn logs. It was on a hill in a beautiful spot surrounded by trees about one and a half miles west of the hamlet of Drayton Valley and between the North Saskatchewan River to the east and the Pembina River to the west. At that time the area had an abundance of wild fruit, the best of water from wells and springs, and plentiful wild game to hunt. Of course, all of this bounty of nature was pure and free of pesticides.

It is from this time frame that I recall some of my fondest childhood memories such as annual blueberry picking time, the last two weeks of August. I loved this fun time as it was like a vacation. A double box wagon held supplies and food and a tent if you had one. I remember sleeping under the stars on one trip with Mildred and Eric Jonzon and Lila Berryman, coyotes howling all around. To make the ten mile journey and cross the Pembina River you needed a good team of horses. After crossing the river there were acres and acres of blueberries in the pine trees. After a day of berry picking you could see smoke from open fires, smell food cooking, and we still had time to play with other

kids before bed. I loved this time and the memories of it.

In 1939 just after the Second World War began, Ella and the family left the homestead accompanying Claude in his search for a job that would provide a better standard of living for the family. In time, the family settled in Calgary where Claude worked in an ammunitions plant during the war and foundry after the war. Ella and Claude eventually settled in a new home in the then recently developed Spruce Cliff subdivision in Calgary and their three daughters all married between 1949 and 1956.

As empty nesters, Ella and Claude settled comfortably into the role of retired grandparents and remained together in their home until Claude was hospitalized due to a massive stroke in 1971. Although Claude was unable to move or speak, Ella faithfully visited him until his passing in 1974 at age 82.

Ella remained in her own home until 1987. Enjoying exceptionally good health, Ella was very active and enjoyed gardening, entertaining, and travel to many destinations both within and outside North America. In 1987 Ella moved into Jacques Lodge in Calgary where she resided until 1993. From 1993 until her passing on January 14, 2000 at age 97, Ella was a resident of the Bowcrest Nursing Home.

REV. L. WESLEY AND DOT HERBERT

Written by Dot Herbert

Rev. L. Wesley Herbert and I, his wife Dot, moved to the Drayton Valley United Church from Golden, B.C., in 1987 and were here until 1990. We

Rev. L. Wesley Herbert and Dot

really enjoyed our congregation, found them joyful, helpful, outgoing, never a dull moment, enthusiastic, a growing church with sunday school and C.G.I.T., good leaders, teachers and assistants.

My husband always had good humor in his sermons and services, kept you on your toes and awake. If you nodded off and woke up to people laughing, you knew you missed something you should have heard. We enjoyed people. He often would comment on the brightly coloured socks the director of music would wear Sunday morning. One time she thought she would get even with him. The following Sunday she wore a bow tie that would light up every time he looked in her direction but to her amazement he never noticed it.

We found the people of Drayton Valley very friendly and helpful. We had good neighbours and made many friends over coffee in the various restaurants of the area.

Rev. Herbert and the Right Honorable Joe Clark

In 1990 to 1992, we moved to the United Church in Westlock, Alberta. In 1992 we retired to Fort Macleod, Alberta. In 1994 my husband's health started to slow him down and on January 29, 1996, he passed away. He was in the ministry for over 40 years. I still reside in our home.

Rev Herbert, service in park

Rev. L. Welsey Herbert, Grace English birthday party with ladies of the United Church.

LESLIE AND THELMA HERNDON

Written by Charles Herndon and Audrey Stewart

Leslie was born September 26, 1903, in Ross Creek near Tofield, Alberta, to Thomas and Annie (Wood) Herndon. During his teenage years, he gained recognition as a jockey, achieving success on Alberta's junior circuit. Extra weight had to be added after being weighed in with himself, saddle and bridle, in order that he could compete with the other riders. Leslie worked on railroad construction near Nipawin, Saskatchewan and Southern Alberta. His job included driving eight horses. In 1929, he started farming N½ 17-51-19-4 and he worked the rural mail route along with his brothers in the Tofield area.

Thelma was born August 12, 1913, at Flat Lake, Alberta to Charles and Edna (Eaton) Fry. There were no schools in the area so the family moved to Tofield where her father ran a freight drey. After finishing school she worked as a mother's companion. In the winter of 1931, Thelma and her folks Charles and Elsie (Miller) Fry came to the new homestead NW 35-48-8-5. In August 1931, she filed for her own homestead SE 3-49-8-5, which is now known as Cottonwood Acres. She cleared four acres with an axe and had a set of house logs cut before abandoning it.

In 1932, Leslie and Thelma were married and farmed in the Lindbrook area. These were hard years. When they shipped a cow, they had to pay more than the cow sold for to cover freight charges. Leslie went to work for the gas company on a pipe cleaning coating operation.

Leslie joined the army in 1943, sold the farm and moved the family to Edmonton, 9707-93 St. He served in Grande Prairie and Calgary with honorable discharge in April, 1946. He then turned his hand to carpentry.

On October 10, 1946, the Herndons moved to SE 7-49-7-5 in Drayton Valley where they farmed until retirement. Their move to Drayton put six more kids in the two class rooms. Since there were not enough desks, Leslie made some. Besides farming, Leslie worked during the winters in Dan Bill's and Fred Urchyshyn's lumber camps as bookkeeper, cut firewood for the school, worked at Blocks store and did carpentry around the area.

One year no one was available to come to do the threshing. Snow came very early snowing the stooks under. In the spring, they bought their own threshing machine and threshed two crops that year and also did some custom threshing.

Leslie served on the school board and was secretary-treasurer for the Farmers Union. Leslie and Thelma served on the Drayton Valley hall board, worked for elections and were active in the Seniors Drop In Centre. Thelma was founding secretary for the Rural Electrification Association, a member of the Anglican Women's Auxiliary, a leader of the 4H sewing and garden clubs and was a casual worker in the post office.

There were the days of an acre of garden, canning 20-30 quarts of vegetables a day, hunting wild game and canning it, milking cows by hand and separating and shipping cream and eggs, logging and clearing land by hand, picking rocks, binding and stooking, threshing crews and feeding them, hauling water by pail, both in and out, splitting wood, hauling ashes out, listening to Lux Radio Theatre and Ma Perkins on the radio, community picnics, weekly shows and family dances.

They entertained many bridge game parties and enjoyed bowling and modern square dancing, traveling many a mile to attend them. They had a tremendous amount of love and patience listening to all of us learning to play one, two or three instruments.

Thelma and Leslie raised 6 children: Charles, Irene, Ivy, Audrey, Joyce, and Joan and had 20 grand children and 29 great grandchildren. Leslie lived until May 16, 1979, and Thelma until August 23, 1996. They were both cremated.

Charles married Doreen Stewart. They live in Calgary. Their children are, Edward, Maxine, Thomas and Les Lee. Irene married William Robinson and they live in Drayton Valley. Their children are, Dorothy and Roger. Ivy married Arthur Jorgensen and they live in Edson. They have one son, Jens. Audrey married William Ron Stewart. Their children are Linda Lorraine and William Lyle. Ron is deceased and Audrey lives in Benalto. Joyce married Kenneth McGinn. Their children are Connie, Norman, Keith, Wendy, and Mischelle.

Kenneth drowned and Joyce married Roland George. Roland has passed away and Joyce lives in Wildwood. Jean married Noel Hallett. Their children are Gordon, Donald, Karen, Brian and Carolyn. They divorced and Jean now lives at Westerose.

GERALD AND EVA HENNESSEY

Gerald served overseas and on his return to Canada married Eva Tumback in 1946. They moved from Plats, Saskatchewan to the Leduc oil field in 1948. Gerry worked for Imperial Oil and they lived in Devon for about 5 years.

In 1954, Gerry started working for Mobil Oil and moved the family to Drayton Valley. He remained with Mobil until 1963. They had 6 children, Dee (Ken) McMorris, Donald Patrick, and Douglas Elvin. Three children died. Baby David in 1948, David Gerald in 1963 and Herbert Dennis in 1964, and Gerry died in 1975.

In 1955, Eva was charter president of the Catholic Women's League and worked diligently in the St. Anthony's Parish from its very beginning. She was also on the committee when St. Anthony's second church building was erected in 1987.

Eva married Dave Donnelly in 1976. Dave had been widowed for 7 years and had 3 children from that marriage, Leslie Ann, Michael and Peter. Dave and Eva ended up with 13 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren by 1998.

WALTER AND HELEN (HARRIS) HILL

Submitted by Helen Hill

In 1932, at the house in Edmonton, on 16th Street (our house number that year was 10758 as I recall), the Harris family sat around the supper table listening to Walter talk about a place that old "Mac" McKenzie (our neighbour) had been telling Walt about. Mac said it was beautiful country. Thick with luscious green trees and meadows and rugged trails that were often only travelled on horseback or on foot. Rich virgin land just waiting to be broken and plowed and worked to produce prodigious crops and raise cattle and sheep and pigs. You would have a milk cow that would produce all the butter and cream you would ever want. This garden of Eden was rife with meat giving wild animals- deer, elk, moose, even bears. (Mac said the best pie crust ever produced was made with bear fat) and there were acres of blueberries for the picking. We listened glassy eyed envisioning fat blueberry pies topped off with thick whipped cream. Elk steaks thick and juicy, pan fried in butter and thick with gravy made from the drippings. And big brown loaves of bread with crispy crusts. What a heavenly vision to this family to whom austerity was no stranger. These were depression times and doing without was common place, and here was a land of plenty, 120 acres which you could purchase for about $6-$10. You had to have a building on the land within 6 months of residing. All you needed was some boards, nails, tarpaper and a window. "And the skies are not cloudy all day", hummed the older brother. Walt wanted to go "do it", he had finished his grade 12 and of course there was no money to put him through for a doctor or anything else for that matter. There were lots of discussions for a week or so, resulting in Walter catching a ride on Ernie Jensen's truck and going with him as far as Moon Lake, Ernie and his brother had a trucking business then. Their family home was in Moon Lake. I think their parents homesteaded there.

I don't know how Walt got from there out to Mac's homestead in Pembina. Probably caught a ride with the mailman, horse and buggy style or maybe walked. His friend from school, Kip Davidson, went with him on that first trip and they disappeared into the bush for about a month.

I remember when they came home to Edmonton looking tired and sunburned and pretty dirty. They had built a raft and rode it with poles to steer down the Saskatchewan river since they had no money for any other transportation. Walter filed his claim for the quarter section SE 24-48-9-W5 next to Edith and Henry Deby.

Soon Walt was gone back to try his fortune as a homesteader. Mac had the quarter east of him so he was sort of looked after by his good old friend. Mac had a neighbour homesteader on the quarter bordering his to the North, whose name was Ab Downey. Ab was also a bachelor. He was married but his wife lived in Edmonton. She couln't bring herself to come and live in the little shack in the wilds. She also had a good job bookkeeping in Edmonton. She would come out to visit Ab every so often and always cried when she left, but she showed good sense keeping her job, as things turned out. Ab was a tall, angular man with a high domed bald head. He had watery pale blue eyes and a sad long face. He must have been in his 50's when I first met him. I think he was Irish and had the funniest things to say when you least expected them. I never knew when he was telling the truth or "pulling my leg". I remember his big stiff looking hands. How amazing to watch how supple those fingers were when he played his fiddle. Walt liked to play the mouth organ and they made good music together. Charlie Parkinson lived on a homestead with his family, the Roy Thompsons', several miles away. He was a good man on the guitar and after the log school was

built, those three would play for hours and hours for dances.

Sometimes, all the homesteaders would gather at the Hills place. They had built a big hip roofed barn of logs and lived in it several years while the main house was being built. They sometimes hauled all the furniture outside giving us a good big dance floor. Some of the older folk went upstairs where cardtables were set up between beds. There were usually a few sleeping babies and some of the smaller children. Whole families went to the dances in those days. It was always a treat to have a visit with others you didn't see that often, and it was the only entertainment in the early settlement days.

In 1935 Walt and I went to Drayton Valley getting a ride with Ernie Jensen again. There was a store belonging to Alf Rudd where Ernie delivered various parts and pieces ordered from Edmonton by the homesteaders. There was a small building where two brothers kept the Post Office. One was in a wheel chair. Their names were Les and Chester Miller. Later on the Ganskes had the Post Office and also a gas station. (Otto and Helen)

1935 had a very rainy spring, summer and fall. The road from Moon Lake to Drayton and the one to Violet Grove and to Pembina was about 50 miles. In many places the horses pulling a wagon sank in that jelly like mud up to their knees. In fact, Ernie couldn't go far with his truck without getting stuck and had to transfer his load to a large wagon. The poor horses plodded through the muck all day. What a long day that was. We started from Moon Lake early in the morning and got to Violet Grove at dusk. Walt and I walked behind the wagon all the way, stopping at noon to rest and feed the horses. We ate our sandwiches while sitting on some large tree roots with the rain dripping off the trees and down the backs of our necks every time we took a drink of thermos coffee. We were glad for high boots and slickers that day. Except for the boggy trail, we were hemmed in on all sides by the green forest, mostly poplars and willow and occasionally spruce. Sometimes we sank almost to the tops of our hiking boots in the mud. The rain drummed down and I remember the sound of the horses' hooves as they squelched and splashed and the footsteps went splonk in and splish out of that mud for all the hours of the day. The wagon jingled and creaked.

We were pretty weary by the time we came to a homesteader's shack, squatting in its surround of trees near Violet Grove. Walter knew the old fellow who lived by himself. He gave us something for under our heads, and a blanket, and we laid ourselves down gratefully on the hard, not too clean floor.

It was pitch black in that little room after the lantern was blown out, and it wasn't too long before I could hear the small skitterings of the mice playing tag around us. Sometimes they ran right across us and once I was awakened from a doze as tiny feet scratched right across my face. After that I catnapped sitting with my back to the wall.

The old fellow arose at daylight, and shook and rattled his wood stove and made us flapjacks with Rogers Golden Syrup dipped out of a pail with a spoon. Boy! they tasted good. The coffee was excellent, too, boiled in a battered granite wear pot. I don't remember the old fellow's name. Was it Katz? maybe. We left the shack and walked into the trees and onto a trail between tall trees again. It was what Walt called a deer trail. We didn't talk much, just kept laboriously walking along in the mud, getting pretty tired by mid afternoon. Walter saw the big dark animal in our path first. Look! look! he exclaimed. "Helen, it's a moose!" But I was too tired to care what it was. Just kept on walking and went right past it. It stepped over to the side and disappeared in the trees. About a mile after that we came to Deby's cabin in Pembina. Mrs. Deby welcomed us at the door. We took off our muddy boots and stepped inside. A bed was along one wall and I removed my slicker, went over and laid down and went to sleep.

I remember many times when I was glad to lie down and sleep. We city kids learned many new things and some of them were exhausting, like cutting down the big trees with the crosscut saw and splitting wood for the stove. We had to have enough wood split and piled to last the winter. This was wonderful exercise for body building. We were proud of our muscles and strength in those days.

My first attempt at baking bread was a disaster. I was in complete ignorance for bread baking. Didn't know I was to let it rise and be punched down then let to rise again. I knew I had to dissolve the yeast cake and did so, then added water and sugar and flour and mixed it until it wasn't sticky, rolled it into shape to half fill the 2 pans, put it in the good hot oven and cooked it for about an hour. It cooked a lovely brown but it only rose about half an inch and it was hard as a brick. The dog couln't eat it. He finally buried it some place. We went back to eating baking powder biscuits for a while. Walter took one loaf and the hammer and a large spike, and spiked it to a fence post where it frustrated the magpies for weeks. I finally learned how to make bread from a trapper who lived miles away. He was passing our place on his way to Violet Grove for supplies and ended up visiting for a couple of days. His name was Danny MacDonald. A big rugged man,

probably Scotch descent, I thought. He knew how to do everything and told us long stories about his lonely life away back west. He showed us a blanket he had made by cutting dry rabbit skins into strips and joining them and weaving them like you would darning a sock. It felt light, but lovely and warm. He told us about tanning moose hide with a mixture of the animals brains and butter and alum, and making his moccasins and a coat. In the winter he grew a beard for warmth, he said. He told us how he got a bad cold and it hurt his lungs to breathe. He wrapped baling wire around his chest and walked all the way into the settlement. Someone took him to Edmonton to a hospital, where they found he had T.B. He was in the sanitorium for a while, and finally went back to his lonely digs to hunt and trap again.

About the time I learned to make bread, we bought a milk cow called Pansey, from Mr. Martin in Violet Grove. We paid $5 for her. She was a gentle little dark brown cow who gave lots of milk. She cried big tears every time we milked her. She kicked us quite a bit until Fritz Joesting came along one day and told us we were milking her the wrong side. How could we know? But we learned so many things. How to cool the milk and skim off the cream and shake it in a sealer to make a pat of butter and to work the whey out of it and how to salt it. Walt made a wooden paddle with a handle that fit our hand. He carved it out of a bit of 1/2" board with his jack knife. We were very proud of that piece of handiwork and it was a good shape for pushing and squeezing the whey out.

We cleared out a patch of willows for a garden plot. Those sure were tough roots. Bend, chop-chop-chop, yank out roots, throw them into the pile. The sun beat down on us, the deer flies bit us, the mosquitoes drank from us. Our faces turned red and shiny, our shoulders and arms hurt. I thought I might die of pain and fatigue that first day of the hardest work I had ever done.

When we had a good sized patch of earth cleared, we planted potatoes and carrots and lettuce. Someone told us that a potato crop should be put in first to "sweeten" the earth. We had a pretty good crop that fall and a very good garden the next year. That first year we ate rolled oat porridge and navy beans, moose meat and potatoes, coffee with milk and cream and baking powder biscuits, and thrived.

Once a week we walked the mile to Deby's place. They had the Post Office and we often saw other settlers there. A stamp cost 3 cents at that time.

Walt and I would tramp along single file and our big tabby cat would trot along behind, just like a dog. Every once in a while he'd make an enquiring meowing sound and we'd answer him a few words. He went about his own business once we got to Deby's, but always popped up when we started for home, no matter how long we visited.

We wrote home once a month. My letters full of new exciting (to me) experiences. I wrote about a still sweet spring morning when I first saw a squirrel. He ran out on a spruce tree limb, high above my head and quivered and chattered at me so bossily. He couln't sit still for a minute. He was all over that tree. Up and down he went, pausing an instant to scratch a flea with a whirring motion, then darting up the tree trunk, then back again to chatter at me for intruding in his territory. He had a pointy nose and beady bright eyes. He nibbled on a spruce cone working it around in his front paws that looked like little boney hands. He was so cute and agile and busy. I suspected he had a nest in that tree. He was red brown with such an elegant bushy tail reaching along his back. He didn't know what a perfect little piece of Gods handiwork he was.

Nearly everything we wrote about was so different from the city. I told about the one and only time we heard a panther screaming, out in the woods agonizing and full of unutterable pain like a woman's screams in childbirth. The baby rabbit we found, tiny and so soft. It just fit in a teacup.

The pale green foliage in the springtime and the sweet smell of white poplars budding out, a smell like pine apples. The smell of damp earth and fresh cut hay. Running into a wasp nest (wet mud or wet soda for stings), a nest of blue-green robin eggs, watching a flock of partridge doing their "dum dum" dance, digging the well, learning to use the cross cut saw. Always you pull, never push. Skinning trees with a 2 handled drawing knife. Burning brush. The day we went out to shoot some game for meat. (When the deer looked at us with its soft trusting eyes we couln't do it) and the very next day along came Edward Hill on his horse called Buster, with meat in a cotton bag hanging on the saddle.

Coyotes yapping at sunset, a whole chorus. Horseflies so thick they covered every inch of the window screen and how the hornets attacked them and ate them except for wings and heads. Wonderful sunsets, and riding home from a dance at daylight having to milk the cow before falling into our bunks to sleep. Polishing the coal oil lamp glass and many more things. 100 miles from the city we lived a totally different life in a new world close to nature. Carefree, young, we learned to be settlers.

Ed Hill and I were married in 1940 and we had 5 girls in 11 years, which was quite enough. We are still married after 57 years.

Walter Harris died of a brain tumor in 1944. He had left the homestead to parents and went to be a minister for 3 years before he died at 33 years of age.

ALBERT AND OLIVE HODGSON

Submitted by Olive Hodgson

I, Olive (Adams) Hodgson, was born in St. Louis, Saskatchewan, on May 31, 1918. Albert was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, on April 1, 1918. We were married August 13, 1945, in the Anglican Church in Prince Albert, upon Albert's return from overseas after serving five years in RCEME army. In his absence, I was employed and continued to work after our marriage.

Albert bought and paid for a truck. Then for a couple of years we operated a wood and tie camp at Love, Saskatchewan. From there we decided to try B.C. and moved to Kelowna in 1948. Albert was operating caterpillars and building roads for logging trucks. I worked as a clerk in a store, which meant being separated again. Se we loaded our truck and moved to Trail, B.C. There Albert went into the trucking business and that's were our three daughters were born. Vera on February 1, 1950, Verna on February 18, 1951 and Betty on March 11, 1954.

Albert Hodgson built this little house to transport his family to Drayton Valley in 195?

We both preferred the prairies. Albert saw an ad in the paper "Land for Sale" and it was in the Drayton Valley area. Albert and a friend went back east. His friend got a job at the Co-op fertilizer plant in Ft. Saskatchewan. Albert bought N ½-33-48-7-5 in 1953. We spent that summer here and it was so nice and peaceful. We returned to Trail for the winter and prepared to move back in 1954. By then the oil boom had begun. Albert trucked oil to Nisku before the pipelines were installed. He then operated batteries, some of which were on our own property, so that he could be closer to home and the family. By then our two sons were born, Brent on November 4, 1956 and Lee on February 13, 1958.

Lee and Brent Hodgson pumping water for the stock

We always had animals on the farm for food, horses for pleasure and children's pets. We also farmed to feed the animals and the whole family joined in on the work. It was hard, but we enjoyed working as a family. Albert bought a school bus, which he operated for some time and he had also been hauling mail. After the children all left home I went to work at the D.V. hotel as a desk clerk and later at the Westwinds hotel. After that I was the Greyhound bus agent for eight years. I then retired and enjoyed my garden. Albert said when he was 65: "I'm tired and retired". He had his shop and worked on his hobbies and we had our ski-doos in winter for riding on the beautiful bush trails. In the summer we travelled with our truck and camper and also took a few flights to the U.S.A.

Albert passed away on the return trip from Brandon, Manitoba, July 11, 1995. I remain in our home, which I liked from the day I arrived here.

Drayton Valley has been a good community to us. All our grandchildren attended school from grades one to twelve and Sunday school. Most of our grandchildren have also graduated here. Both

Back, Vera, Verna, Albert Hodgson, Front, Lee, Brent and Betty

generations enjoyed and participated in many sports in the schools. All our children left D.V. to explore other areas, even other provinces, but have since all returned. Drayton Valley has provided a good diversity of living for us.

Our children and their spouses and grandchildren are as follows:

Vera and Dale Jorgenson, children: Shelby and Alana

Verna and Doug Sprague, children: Chad, Tanya and Sacha

Betty and Randy Hamilton, children: Cindy and Ryan

Brent and Diane Hodgson, children: Kylyn, Elaine and Adam

Lee and Linda Hodgson, children: Kelly, Amber and Colin

Albert and Olive Hodgson family

BOB HOEFLING

Submitted by Walter Turtiak

In 1933, Bob Hoefling, with his wife Laura and their children, three daughters and three sons, came from the New Norway area south of Camrose. They left due to the drought, wind and dust on the prairies. Bob homesteaded on quarter section NE 7-48-8-5. There was a small cabin there, which was built by Harry McGinn from Tomahawk. Bob Hoefling wasn't a healthy man. He had arthritis in his legs so he used crutches to walk. With the help of his oldest son, Norman, and the other children, they cleared a few acres of land. He raised a few sheep, had a few cows for milk, and two horses. Bob usually borrowed farm machinery from the neighbours. They later built a bigger house. Their oldest daughter, Grace, went back to the prairies and married. Second daughter, Evelyn, married Swany Jonzon from Drayton Valley. In the spring of 1940, Norman, their oldest son, went swimming in the river and got pneumonia. He passed away as there was no doctor closer than Tomahawk. The children walked 5 miles to the Violet Grove School. After Norman left school, the three youngest children were usually tardy. Bob lived mostly on welfare and hunted wild game for food. He rode a pinto horse and could shoot his rifle while sitting on his back. He left the Violet Grove area with his family in the spring of 1943, and went back to the New Norway area.

JIM HOLMGREN FAMILY

I was born on May 31, 1937 in Lindale, Alberta, to Norman & Mary Holmgren. They had two other boys, Gordon and Doug. My school years began at the Northend School, which was on the same quarter as we lived, SE 10-50-5 W5M – three miles north of Lindale. In the school term 1952-53, the Northend School was closed and the students needed to be transported to the Lindale School. Since I was only 15, my dad got the bus contract and I drove a team of horses for him for the first year while attending school. When I got to school, I had to unharness the horses and feed and put them in the barn before school started. After harnessing horses morning and night for one full year, I never wanted to harness a horse again. In the winter months we used a caboose sleigh with an airtight heater to keep everyone warm and in the summer time we had an open wagon. It was a good way to break horses that wanted to run away. During the school term, 1953-54, I received my driver's license and we bought a van to bus the students and myself to school. We didn't have insurance and all the parents had to sign a waiver. After 47 years, I still own my own bus and am currently driving to the Lindale School.

Since I was raised on a farm, it made sense to carry on the tradition and farm as well. I purchased my first quarter of land NW 3-50-5 W5M in the 1950's from Richard O'Dell Payne, only two miles from where I was born and raised, and built my farmsite where we still live today. In 1963, I married Iona Haffner in the back of the Carnwood store. She was born in 1939 in Berrymoor, Alberta. We have two girls, Cindy Lee Bernice and Carol Vicky. Cindy married Keith Brewster and they have three boys – Ian, Trevor, and Owen. Carol married Robert Lind. They are both living in the Buck Creek area.

Jim Holmgren family with Mary Holmgren

We still farm north of Lindale and have a mixed farming operation, consisting of approximately 800 acres of cultivated land and 90 cow/calf pairs (predominately Simmental). We have recently purchased a motorhome and hope to be able to utilize it in the near future.

GERTRUDE TRUDY HOOKER (HAGGERTY)

By (sister) Florence Malcolm

Gertrude was the eldest daughter of Fred and Alice Haggerty. The family had a big black Newfoundland dog that Trudy trained to pull a sleigh when she was only 8 or 9 years old. She made many trips to the store and post office in Drayton Valley, seven miles away.

At age 15, she started working at the logging camps. The first one was helping Mrs. Morrin, who was cooking in a camp near Violet Grove. She was not at home much as there was always someone who wanted her helping hands, but was at home when her mother needed help. Some of her first wages went to buy a black Standard bred mare that she loved. But with her away so much, the family got more use of the horse than she did. When she went to Edmonton to work, she was not at home much. She worked for a farmer or two, and then got employment in Edmonton. She signed up to go the Ajax Munitions Plant in Ontario in early 1945. There she met with her Aunt Gertrude, her father's sister, who lived in Toronto. After the war, back in Edmonton at the Air base and hearing that wages were better in the North, she asked to be transferred to Whitehorse. There she met and married Arthur Hooker, an engineer. They lived in various places in BC near Vancouver and also at Gold Bridge where Arthur worked on the LaJoie Dam project. They had a family of one daughter and six sons. Shirley and her brothers Warren, Jay, George, Bee, Dalton and Joseph. When the youngest, Joe, was ten years old, Arthur bought a ranch near Williams Lake. Gertrude lived there with her three youngest sons who were still at home. Arthur was not at home very much, as his work took him to many places. Gertrude and the boys worked at building up the ranch with the help of Art and the boys who had paying jobs.

Arthur passed away in 1984, losing his fight to cancer and son George in 1994, also due to cancer. Gertrude still lives on the ranch. It is the type of life she loves, where looking out the window she can see moose, deer, and geese and ducks on her two big ponds. She also has chickens, a few sheep and some Dexter cattle and two horses in the pasture near her house. One son lives about five miles away, whom she sees quite often and enoys seeing their three children. She had 18 grandchildren, many living in various parts of BC, but one family as far away as Manitoba.

RONALD D. AND NORMA HOWATT

Submitted by Norma Howatt

On February 13, 1955, I (Ron) left my parents' place in Stony Plain and launched off for a new job with Pembina Pipe Line Ltd. in Drayton Valley. Luckily, the roads were frozen, so travelling was good that evening. Arriving at Pembina's office, I was directed to a trailer to sleep in by Spike Brown, as it was late in the evening by this time. I crashed on an empty bunk and thought this was going to be all right. The next day, I found out that there were thirty-six of us, sharing twenty-four bunks. With shift work it worked out just fine.

Later on, Al Horne invited me to share his trailer with him which was really an improvement as far as privacy went. It only had two disadvantages, 1. neither Al nor I could stand up straight in the trailer because it had a low ceiling, and 2. often we found our boots frozen to the floor when we got up in the mornings. When the weather warmed up it was quite comfortable.

Summer, 1955, found me looking for different accommodation since I was getting married. Since Devon was already an established oiltown, I was able to get a two-room skidshack there. But where to put it was the question once I got it to Drayton Valley. All the hastily put-up trailer courts were over-flowing. However, Dodson's Trailer Court opened a larger overflow area and let me put it on a lot there with none of the amenities.

While Ron was courting me (Norma), I would get phonecalls from Drayton Valley in the middle of the night and although I was really glad to hear from him, I finally suggested that he call at a more respectable hour. That didn't go over very well with Ron as he had been standing in line for many hours to use the one pay phone in town, while toolpushers from every rig in the area phoned in their reports to their head offices.

Ron Howatt on step of first skidshack with the add-on that they built in 1955 in the background.

After our honeymoon, you can imagine how eager I was to see our new home. We left Stony Plain at 8 am so we'd have a little time to get settled before Ron went to work at 4 pm – afternoon shift. The road was so bad that we (along with the rest of the traffic) had to be pulled by cat the last ten miles into Drayton Valley. We arrived at the house in time for Ron to unlock it and say "See you at midnight". Midnight turned out to be 5 am as he'd been stuck half the night somewhere near Violet Grove.

I found out right away that our new home had both running water and toilet – a 100-yard dash to the outhouse and one-block run to fetch water and NO POWER. I never minded the running, but I felt I had to have power to wash and iron. But no one in the trailer court overflow had power. There were no service poles to plug into. But soon Ron noticed that when getting home late some of our neighbours had lights on. Curiosity or my nagging got to him and he discovered that they had bought extra-long cords, waited until the people in the serviced part of the trailer court were asleep, unplugged them and plugged themselves in that slot long enough to wash, iron, etc. So … when in Rome do as the Romans do … we washed and ironed at night, too.

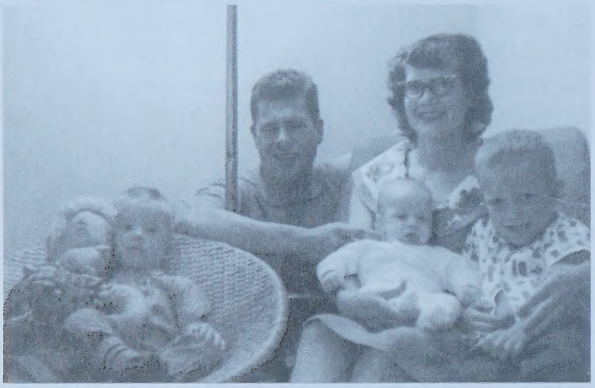
We enjoyed our first home for a whole year. Then Pembina Pipe started building company homes. We were offered one in Lodgepole and it was supposed to be ready on October 1, 1956. We were so excited and had no trouble at all getting our skidshack sold. However, due to all the rain, construction was delayed on the Pembina house and we were now homeless. We had sold our house out from under ourselves. We were telling our neighbours of our problem. (They were homesteaders from Rochford Bridge who came into town in a little home-made trailer to make some money for the winter. A man, his brother, wife and 7 year old girl). They came up with a very generous offer. They had just framed up a 8'x10' add-on for their own small trailer and offered to let us use it until our home was ready. With their help we skidded this three-sided porch onto our own little lot and they loaned us a piece of canvas to cover the open wall. We hung all of our belongings in the rafters and were fairly snug – thanks to the kindness of Jack, Dot and Clara Pollock.

Ron Howatt in 1964 with Dale.

Our home was ready in Lodgepole some time in November and how we cherished all that room. We lived very happily there for one year. Our first son

was born while we were in Lodgepole. We were then transferred back to Drayton Valley in 1957 and once again there was no accommodation available. So once again, we purchased a skidshack and bought a lot. This time Drayton Valley had a town planner and things were a lot more civilized. We paid $200 for the lot (close to where St. Anthony's School is now).

Our other two sons were born in Drayton Valley. Murray in 1960 and Dale in 1962. The fifties and sixties were a time of birth and growth in the town. The "Newest Arrivals" column in the Western Review back then, was always featuring from eight to twenty new births weekly it seemed.



Top Right, L to R, Ron and Norma Howatt. Bottom, Murray, Dale and Syd in 1962.

Our family and the town grew up together for the next twenty-one years. We moved out to a farm in the Carnwood area in 1978 but still consider Drayton Valley our home town. Ron retired in 1995 after forty years with Pembina Pipe Line. He still keeps busy on the farm. Sons Syd and Dale share an apartment in town and Murray, his wife Brenda and their children, Sarah (8) and Paul (5) live in Sherwood Park.

EDWARD & IONA HUTZAL (NEE TUCKER)

Eddie Hutzal – I was born in Athabasca, Alberta, September 5, 1947, and lived the first ten years of my life on our family farm near Boyle. In 1957 my family, consisting of my parents, Joe and Mildred Hutzal, brothers, Ron and Gerry, and sister, Janet (Dmytruk) moved to Drayton Valley. My dad had been working in the Pembina Oilfield ,building pipelines with his two cat, for some time before he decided to move the family. We built a house next to the Catholic Church and resided there until 1965 when we moved to Edmonton.

It was difficult to have any close friends in school. My classmates seemed to always be moving in and out of Drayton Valley. At that time, I didn't really understand but now, as I look back, I can see why. There were as many as 385 rigs drilling in the Pembina Oilfield at a given time. As the rigs moved from one hole to another, the families also moved with the father. There were small schools in Violet Grove, Lodgepole, Cynthia, Dunnington, Easyford, Breton and Warburg.

I remember as a young boy, walking on the streets in what is downtown Drayton Valley today. It was so mucky and the ruts were so deep, one could hardly walk, never mind drive a vehicle.

We often had to wait in line with probably a ½ mile line-up of cars and trucks, waiting to get on the ferry to cross the Saskatchewan River. There wasn't a bridge as yet and the only other way to cross the river was through Devon. The ferry was located where P.O.S. is today. I recall once, when my dad was crossing with his cat, the cable broke, and when the ferry tilted in the water, the cat knocked all the other vehicles into the river. The ferry was free-wheeling down the river until it finally got hung up on a sand bar with only the cat on it.

As a teen-ager we spent a lot of time at the Pool Hall (which was located in the Drayton Valley Hotel Building) and next door in the Jade Cafe. The Chinese owner, Kenny used to get mad at us and say, "One pop – four guy – sit for hour!" Being a very transient town, Drayton Valley was a pretty rough place to live in those days.

Hutzal Family – L to R- Ed, Iona, Joey, Janaia, Kareen, Carla

I graduated from high school at Victoria Composite High School in Edmonton, where my parents lived for a few years before moving to Athabasca. My dad passed away in 1980 and my mother is still living in Athabasca. Brothers Ron and Gerry are married and live in Calgary and Janet and her husband Rusty Dmytruk and family reside in Edmonton.

After graduation I returned to Drayton Valley and shortly after started working for Pembina Pipeline Ltd. On February 8, 1969, 1 married my high-school sweetheart, Iona Tucker.

Iona Hutzal – I am the third child of Leslie and Louise Tucker (Nee Lainchbury), and was born in Drayton Valley May 15, 1948. My grandmother, Violet Tucker, delivered me in the living quarters behind her Variety Store and Grandad's Post Office, which stood where the Saan Store is today, (5009-50 Street). The

bridges were all out that Spring and Mom couldn't make it to the hospital in Edmonton. I was baptised in the Old Anglican Church in Drayton Valley and grew up on our family farm where Mom and Dad still reside today. (Where the mill is located).

I began school in Drayton Valley in 1954. This was shortly after the discovery of oil in the Pembina Oilfield and the original Eldorado School couldn't hold all the new students. Several portable school buildings were hauled in and I remember being very frightened as I stood in a long line that first day of

school waiting to be directed to my classroom. There were lots of other children also waiting and most of them were strangers to me. Drayton Valley seemed to change overnight from a quiet little farm community where everyone knew each other to a hectic and strange area full of trailer courts and busy, rough roads.

This was also the first year the School Buses ran – before that my older brother, Gordon, and sister, Darleen (Broadbent) walked to school. We were no longer allowed to walk on the roads because of all the traffic.

The Mannix Camp (which had about 15 trailers) went up right across the road from our farm. This was great for me because not only did I have a good friend living there (LaVeme Renaud) but Darleen and I got lots of babysitting. I also used to peddle eggs there, which was my allowance.

We did most of our shopping out of the Simpson Sears and Eaton's catalogues.

I attended Eldorado School up to grade 6 then went to Frank Maddock High School (which is today's H.W. Pickup Jr. High School) to grade 10. I took grade 11 and 12 in Edmonton and lived with Darleen and Gordie, who were attending University and College there. I graduated from Victoria Composite High School in 1966 along with my future husband, Eddie Hutzal.

Eddie and I have lived our married life in Drayton Valley. We have been blessed with four children – Joey, was born August 8, 1971, and is presently co-owner and manager of Rick's Source for Sports in Drayton Valley; Janaia, was born September 27, 1973 and married Randy McQuaig, who is also from Drayton Valley, May 14, 1994. They live in Sylvan Lake and both presently work in Red Deer – Janaia, as a Dental Assistant and Randy, an Engineer for SunCor; Our twins, Carla and Kareen, were born February 21, 1977. They are both attending Augustana University in Camrose.

Hutzal Children – Joey, Janaia, Carla and Kareen

JOHN AND RUBY HURLEY

After being drowned out on our farm, west of Ponoka, for three years in a row, we decided to leave the farm and seek our fortune elsewhere. We arrived in Alder Flats, New Year's Day, 1955. I got a job clearing leases and roads, which lasted until mid February, when I was hired by Amoco as a 'battery operator' for the Alder Flats area. Ruby got a job teaching and we lived in that area until 1957, when

we moved to Lodgepole. Ruby was one of the first teachers in a skid shack in that Village.

We moved to Drayton Valley in 1961, as family activities were more and more centered there, into a new house built for us. Ruby taught again (Kindergarten-grade 3) at the Eldorado Elementary School.

Mac McCullagh, John Bootsma & I applied for and received permission to start an Air Cadet Squadron. It was an immediate success. We took 76 kids to Red Deer for outfitting, uniforms, etc. The Squadron is still operating and I feel proud of the fact that I was a part of starting it up. We had excellent support from the Legion, of which we were all members and also from the community at large.

In 1965 1 quit Amoco and purchased the bowling alley, Twilight Bowl, in partnership with Roy & Cathy Wills. I soon found that all I could do was run it, so severed my relationship with the Cadets in order to devote my time to a new career. The Alley was badly run down and I spent several busy years getting it going properly. When new pinsetters came on the market in 1967, we invested in them. They really made the bowling business the resounding success it was and continued to be for 20 years, when we sold out and went into semi-retirement.

Our children are Patrick, Levi, Lynne and Vicki. They are scattered from Edmonton to California, and all have done very well in their various endeavours.

I got my pilot's license in 1964 and was able to buy an airplane in 1976, an Ereoupe, and have enjoyed flying over the years. This is probably the best area in the world for flying and I still go up occasionally for a short flight in my 82nd year.

We have talked, from time to time, about going elsewhere to live, but have come to the conclusion that there is no better place to live than in Drayton Valley, Alberta, Canada!

JOHN & MARY IBBOTSON

Submitted by John Ibbotson

I was born January 4, 1928 on my parents' homestead at Fort Pitt, Sask., SW. 32-53-26-W 3rd. In 1937, the family moved into the village of Frenchman Butte, Sask., just 7 miles from the farm. They had bought one of the General Stores in the village. We lived there until 1947 when my dad decided he wanted to go back farming. He had just recently gotten out of the Army after spending 4 years in the services. He bought a farm at Spruce Lake, Sask. Dad died in 1949 and I took over the operation of the farm. In the meantime I had met Mary Barker. We were married July 5, 1951, at Spruce Lake.

Mary was born on her parents farm just 2 miles north of the farm I was now on, it being NW 17-53-21-W 3rd. She rode horse back past our place on her way to High School in Spruce Lake. I would try to be near the road when she went by, thinking I might get to talk to her. She would give the horse a kick and go flying by, so I didn't get to talk to her until she started working in the store where I shopped.

We started our life together on the farm. Our first child, Doug, was born May 4, 1952, our 2nd, Blair, was born May 15, 1954, Gavin was born September 14, 1955. In the spring of 1956 we had an auction sale, bought a large truck and moved to Drayton Valley.

One of M & R's large trucks being pulled by two cats through a farmers pig pasture. The pigs got down in the ruts and couldn't get out

Our decision to come to Drayton Valley was based on my older brother Al's report on lots of activity in the new oil field. He had a similar truck to the one I had bought and was doing quite well. I had my new truck rigged up to work in the oil field. I found work with Shirley Bros. Oilfield Trucking, moving drilling rigs. Shirley's had a yard on the north side of town, the property they had leased from John MacKenzie; later it became Mack & Mann's yard. I worked with Shirley's until they sold out in about 1960 or 1961. I then worked on my own until about 1963 when M&R Trucking started moving drilling rigs. I hired on with them until about 1970. I sold the truck about 1971, after its 14 years of hard work, often including being pulled through the mud with cats.

Going back to 1956 when we moved to Drayton Valley, we bought a 8' by 42' house trailer, we had it parked in the Pembina Trailer Court. It was parked right about where the Three Knights' Dining room is today. I often think about that when we go in there to dine.

I suppose if I talk about the mud, it will sound

John Ibbotson loading a 16 ton Mud Pump. It was just at the balancing point here, as I pulled it on from this point, the front of my truck would start coming down

like a broken record, as we read through this history book of Drayton Valley, but I have to mention a couple of incidents. It was quite a shock for us to move from the quiet of the farm to the life in a boom town. It seemed cars were stuck in the mud all night and spinning their wheels. One night the kids were awakened and scared to the point of crying. Of course we got up immediately to investigate. There, next to our trailer, was the fellow from next door, in his bare feet and night clothes, fighting with his brother who had come from the bar in an argumental mood. So there they were out in the rain and mud settling a score. Another time Mary needed a few things from the store, so she took the kids, one in the baby carriage, to get her things. She got part way there when the wheels started to mud up to the point they wouldn't turn anymore. Someone said to her: "Lady, you must be new in Drayton Valley, or you wouldn't be trying to go anywhere with a baby carriage."

Our fourth boy, Paul, was born January 13, 1957, Regan, born September 24, 1960, and finally a girl, Tammy, born August 12, 1963. With the expectation of a new baby in 1963, we decided we needed more room, so we built a new house on the lot we had acquired a couple of years earlier. We had the house pretty well framed in, and the roof on, when a buyer came along and wanted to buy the trailer. We had the garage which we had built a year or so earlier and it still had some of the material for the house stored in it, so we were able to move this material into the house. We moved out of the trailer into the garage, had to buy a couple of beds, table and chairs, fridge and a hot plate. We had also used the garage for our laundry room, so we had hot and cold water along with laundry tubs. We felt we were pretty well set. The fellow came to get the trailer and we were officially moved into the garage. Low and behold, one of the kids had to go to the bathroom (we had completely forgotten we might need these facilities). As luck would have it, Art Munroe was in the house working on the heating. Art said they had all the sewer lines hooked up, so all he had to do was bring a toilet, set it up, and supply water to it with a garden hose through the window. It worked fine for the next couple of weeks. We still didn't have an address, as it was a couple of years before the street signs began to appear. Eventually our address became "4816-43rd St." After some thirty seven years, we still live at this same location.

Back Row; Doug, John, Mary, Blair, Paul; Front row, Regan and Tommy Ibbotson

In 1969-70, the rig moves were getting further away and we were having to make longer hauls. The truck I once thought was a large truck was becoming too small and under powered for the long hauls. In 1970, I parked the truck and went to work for Panky's Enterprises, operating a pile driver. In 1971, I was away doing a job near Kerrobert, Sask. I was gone about two weeks and when I came home, Mary and the kids had moved to the Matador Motel. She had taken over the job of managing the Motel. We lived there and managed it for a couple of years. Andy and Lovetta Kjorlien were married at this time and needed a place to live. We rented our house to them.

Looking south east from the Ibbotson house. Evergreen Elementary School on the right. Another one of the many flare pits being burned off

I had been with Panky's for about one and a half years. During that time, I had driven over 1500 piles, but there seemed to be a bit of a slump in pile requirements. Although they were able to keep me busy at other jobs, I decided to answer an ad for a job with Pan Arctic. After about 4 months, when I had forgotten about the job application, I got a call wanting me to be in at the airport the next evening to catch the plane. This being February, they said I would need good warm boots, heavy underwear, ski-doo suit, and a large pair of cover-alls that would fit over top, and a parka that would fit over that. We were on our way to Thore Island, a small island off the South end of Axle Heiberg Island, where there was a rig move in progress. Before the plane landed, everyone had to get into their ski-doo suits, heavy boots, parka and warm mitts, as they announced the temperature was at –45 F. with a 30 mph wind. As I was walking the 100 or so yards from the plane to the hut, the need for all the clothes became evident. Even with the parka hood on and fastened properly, my face began to sting. Having to carry my two bags, I was unable to protect my face with my hands, so I walked the distance sort of backward sideways. When I got to the hut, I opened the heavy 4 inch door, the latch no longer working because of the 2½ " ice and frost attached to the inside. It had to be held shut with a rope and pully with a heavy weight on the end. Being that the drilling rig was in the process of being moved, the main camp had not yet all arrived, so we were directed to a couple of park-alls, a type of military insulated tent. We were told that we may find a cot and could go to bed. There were 3 cots left so the other new guy and I picked one; however; I picked the wrong one. After about 2 hours, someone came in and said I was in his bed, so I got up and moved to the other one that was still empty. After 3 or 4 hours in the second bed, the trucks began to arrive with their loads. We were called to breakfast and by the time the trucks were unloaded and refueled, we were ready to go. By this time it was discovered there was one too many of us. The boss said I could flip a coin with the other new guy. One of us would have to catch the next plane as they were already short of sleeping accommodations. He won the toss and didn't hesitate in his decision to catch the next plane. Even after just a few hours of the harsh environment, I wondered what I was doing in a place like that, but I was a little bit glad the other fellow decided to take the trip home. I was directed to the truck I was to drive. The driver got out and said he had the truck fueled up and it was ready to go. He also warned me to be careful not to stall it because the batteries were frozen up and it would not start again without a pull. The brakes were also frozen up and held very little. I opened the door to get in and it looked like a deep freeze that needed defrosting. There was about a half inch of frost on the windows, except for a 10 inch spot on the driver's windshield where a fan was screaming to keep it clear. There was a second large heater mounted between the seats, so it was nice and warm in there. The driver directed me where to get onto the road and he said: "just follow it and it will get you to the other location in about 4 hours." The road was terribly rough, most of it was on the ocean and it must have frozen up in a rough condition. After about an hour and probably no more than 30 miles, the truck started slowing down and didn't seem to want to go. I decided I had better try to contact someone on the radio in case the radio wouldn't work if the motor stopped, the frozen batteries may not work it. I was answered by the foreman who was coming about a half hour behind me. He said he had some alcohol and that there was another truck coming behind him that could push start me should the motor stop. I went a short way further and the motor did stop, the radio, lights and everything went dead. I waited about 20 minutes before I found a flashlight and a paper cup with which I could dip fuel out of the fuel tank and refill the fuel filter if needed. I took the plug out of the top of the fuel filter. With a wire tied to the cup with which I was able to dip out some fuel and fill up the filter, leaving some space to add some alcohol. By this time I could see the lights coming. We added the alcohol, and when the other truck got there it gave me a push and I was on my way again. It even seemed to be running better than when I first got in it; but oh, it was rough! I think the tires were frozen solid.

A 135 foot derrick loaded on two trucks, John Ibbotson's truck in the foreground. We are parked in Shirley's yard on the north side of town, lookiing south east, one of the many flare pits in the area burning. Home Oil battery tank showing on the right

When I got to the location to pick up my load, I discovered the truck foreman was a guy I had worked with when we both had worked for M&R

Trucking. I was glad to see him and he seemed to be glad to see me. He gave me a load to take and said I wouldn't have to make another trip because he was wanting me to stay at the new location and help him rig up, something we both had done together many times. I seemed to have gotten away from the history of Drayton Valley, but there are a couple of more incidents I would like to mention. Re: My time in the Arctic.

Two of my sons, Blair and Gavin, each got a job with Pan Arctic, or Pe-Ben, who was working for Pan Arctic. Gavin came up with me the first couple of trips and then he was transferred to another area, so he was travelling back and forth at different times than I was. It was well into the season of 24 hours of darkness for him, and he didn't enjoy working in the dark that much, so he was thinking of quitting. I went up on a Tuesday night to Camron Island; he and his crew were to go up Thursday night. Friday morning the drilling foreman, the person in charge at our location, got us up early and assembled in the rec. room for an urgent meeting. He announced that Pan Arctic's plane from Edmonton had gone down 3 miles short of the runway at Rae Point. This put the crash site about 2 miles out on the ocean ice. We were all shocked; my first thought was of Gavin and whether he was on that flight. The foreman said he was expecting a list of the passengers soon. When the list came in, Gavin's name was not on it. He had decided to quit. Tammy tells me now, remembering back, Gavin had had a dream that the plane was going to crash and said he wasn't getting on that plane. I think there were about 30 people who died; 2 survived the crash.

L to R, Back Row; Gavin, Mary, John and Paul Ibbotson. Front Row, Tommy, Blair and Doug

Blair was with a crew involved in building ice platforms out on the ocean ice. This was done by pumping water over a large area of ice. As the ice got thicker it would go down instead of up, as you might think it would. The ice had to be thick enough to carry a small drilling rig, as they were drilling and testing for oil under the ocean floor. On one of Blair's trips home, he needed the seat of his ski-doo suit patched. His mother asked him "how in the world did you wear the whole seat out of your pants"? Apparently, for recreation, they would tie a rope to a ski-doo and pull one another around on the ice, sliding on the seat of their pants, of course.

In 1973, after almost 2 years working in the Arctic, and frostbite to my face every month of the year with the exception of July, I quit my job and went to work for M&R Trucking. After about a year, Pan Arctic phoned me, wondered if I would go back to the Arctic for them. I declined the offer, as I was happy with my job at M&R's. I drove for them until the spring of 1977. From then on, I looked after the parts department until 1987 when they sold out to White Pass Oilfield Hauling. I continued in parts for White Pass until just before they closed their operation in Drayton Valley. I finished off my last 3 years before retirement working for Couturier Oilfield Anchors. I turned 65 in January, 1993. I worked until the middle of March and retired. After 49 years of continual employment in the work force, I decided to take it easy.

Mary also worked for M&R Trucking as a receptionist for 7 years. She was a member of Oil Wives for 10 years from about 1970. We are actively involved in the Anglican Church: Mary has been People's Warden for the last 2 years. I took up curling when I was 53 and enjoyed it for 4 years. We deliver Meals on Wheels 1 day a week and shop for Mary's brother and his wife, Alymer and Laura Barker. Alymer had a very severe stroke in July, 1992, and is unable to care for himself.

Our oldest son, Doug, and his family live in Invermere, B.C. Doug works at Radium Hot Springs Resort, Alison works at the hospital as a lab technician. They have one son, Ian, who will be 17 years old in a couple of weeks, April 12, 1997. Alexis, their daughter, will be 15 on July 12, 1997.

Blair lives in Perth, Australia. At this time, he works on a oil drilling rig, in the territory of Papua, New Guinea. He has a son, Owen, who is 14 and a daughter, Jean, thirteen. They both live with their mother, Joanne, in Prince George, B.C. Both Owen and Jean were born in Australia. Joanne is a substance abuse counselor, in Prince George.

Gavin lives in Drayton Valley, and works for Bob-Dale Oilfield Construction. He had become a

welder and worked at that for quite a few years. He has one son, Logan, who will be 16 on May 25, 1997. He lives with his mother, Cathy, in Ottawa. They are now in the process of moving to Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Paul lives on an acreage, just out of Drayton Valley. He works for Babco Oilfield Hauling. He and his wife Jackie have 2 boys; Bill, the oldest at 19 years. He also works for Babco. Curtis is 14, and his birthday is June the 24th.

Regan was born September 24, 1960. He died January 20, 1969, of a blood disorder, that came on very quickly. He came home from school on Friday with a pain in his leg. Despite all the doctors tried to do, he died Monday evening in the University Hospital in Edmonton.

Tammy and her family live in Black Diamond, Alberta, and are presently looking for another place to live. Mark, her husband, works in High River, so they may consider a place there if the price is right. They have 2 boys, Mark Jr., who is going to be 13 on the 3rd of May, and Matthew, eleven, his birthday is December 14th. The boys were followed by 2 girls. Mary was born on Desert Storm Day, the day of the invasion of Iraq, January 16, 1991. Marisa, a 5 lb 2 oz bundle of joy, entered our lives October 15, 1995. These 4 siblings are expecting to be joined by another brother or sister, in June, 1997.

Going back, I will try to relate a few of the interesting aspects of moving drilling rigs as they stand out in my mind, in the Drayton Valley area. One day we would be moving a rig down a considerably new road, we would notice a crew clearing brush, branching off in another direction. The next day there would be a new road into another new location to be drilled and we would be moving a rig in. There would be a couple of cats left to tow us if needed and also to keep the road in place. After each load or two the road would get pushed out, so they would have to keep rolling it back in, by the time the rig was all moved in the road would be well packed and in reasonable good shape, that is unless it rained. I remember one of the few times we spent the night stuck in the mud, and unable to get out until a cat got to us the next morning. We were moving a rig into a new location where the road was just a bulldozed trail through the bush. We had gone in and unloaded our loads and were on our way out when it started raining, it was about a 15 or 20 minute downpour. We were about 5 miles north of Cynthia and 5 or 6 miles east toward the northwest end of Bear Lake, with only a couple of miles of road built east off the Cynthia road, that runs north to Highway 16. We should have been home in an hour or two. I don't remember if the road across to Cynthia via Easyford was built at that time, or whether we still had to travel around by Lodgepole. Anyway, the lead truck of about 7 of us, got stuck, the second truck, unable to get around the first one, pulled in behind and the front truck picked up his front end with his winch line. They were able to go a little further and then they winched the third truck through. Finally they were hopelessly stuck and we spent the night in the heavy bush where the mosquitoes were relentless.

The Saskatchewan River proved to be a great barrier in the movement of trucks and equipment from one side to the other. One case in mind, is the oil well partly down the river hill, and left, up a steep grade to the location. This well was drilled by a rig we brought from across the river, probably less than 3 miles away as the crow flies. We could get across empty on the ferry, with a one or two hour line up to get on the ferry. Once loaded, we were too heavy for the ferry, so we had to go around by Buck Creek, Breton, Alsike and east to the Devon Bridge and back to Drayton by Highway 16 and Highway 22, about 260 km. From Drayton Valley, we went east to the old drive-in and south through Pecks farmyard and down the hill. This road was being used mainly by gravel trucks hauling gravel from the river flats. The oil company branched off this road and built their road back up the hill to their location. Little did we know at that time that there would be a highway built, angling down the hill and cutting across the road just 100 yards or so below the location, with a bridge only about half a mile away.

After the new bridge and road had been put in, we had a rig move from south and east of Buck Lake, to north of Lodgepole, a distance of about seventy miles. As with most of the rig moves in those days, we moved the derrick in one piece on two trucks, one truck going forward and the other backing up. I was selected to load the crown end of the derrick, which was one of my usual loads because I had power steering and that made it much easier for backing up. The other end was loaded on a larger and more powerful truck, owned and operated by my good friend, Fred Gillan, who also had power steering. Fred offered to take the lead when we got to the first corner where we could switch ends. Instead of me pulling around the corner, I went on by, and he pulled around the corner. This put him in the lead and I was then backing up. Quite often we would be forced to switch ends because of a power pole or trees on the corner. In this case the lead truck would go on by or turned the opposite way, which ever corner is free to let the derrick swing across and then the other truck would take the

lead. Anyway, there was no need to switch ends on this particular trip, so I backed up the full 70 miles to the new location. Fred had the wide end of the derrick, so it was easier for him to meet traffic while going forward as opposed to backing up. I enjoyed the challenge of backing up, which sometimes reached 35 or even 40 miles per hour, if the road was straight, dry and dust free. If the road was soft or a long hill to climb, I would put my truck into reverse and help to push in the tough going. When I got home that day, I had the same mileage I had when I left in the morning, 70 miles put on and 70 miles taken off.

Another time, I was hauling a derrick with a fellow by the name of Fred Olson. Fred was in the lead. I think he was pulling us along at close to 40 miles an hour, when all of a sudden there was a big bang. I felt Fred start to slow down, so I put on my brakes to help get stopped. I saw he was out checking his tires, then he came down to my end to see if I had a blown out tire. Everything seemed okay, so away we went again, but travelling a little slower. I could see Fred looking out his back window. Being concerned, he stopped again and when I went to his end, he said he could smell rubber, but still we could see nothing wrong. Off we went again. I guess with his motor working hard, he could smell the rubber smell getting stronger. Finally, he saw bits of rubber still smoking, landing on the deck of his truck. This time we found the source of concern. The spare tire, which was mounted on a rack over the cab, had come loose and slid over the exhaust pipe, thus causing the blowout. By the time we had discovered the problem the tire had a hole burned through one side and out the other.

Over the first ten years I was involved in rig moving, we moved several full sized derricks through town. The last one I was involved in was about 1966 or 67. We hauled it through on 50th Street: travelling from north to south, one truck going forward, the other truck backing up. It was about 7:00 a.m., as we passed Art Playford's Newspaper office which was located where the SAAN store is now. The thought went through my mind at the time, that I should have notified Art the night before, so that he may have gotten pictures of probably the last 135 ft. derrick loaded on two trucks, going right past his front door.

Over the last two weeks we have had the opportunity to see the Comet 'Hale-Bopp' not expected to return until the year 4390. Hopefully when it returns, the people who will be seeing it will enjoy the sight as much as we have.

I will close by saying that Drayton Valley has become a very nice town, a little muddy and rough to start with, but the people who have come and gone and especially the people who have stayed have made it a very special town.

HISTORY OF BRENT AND LINDA INNIS AND FAMILY

Submitted by Linda Wotton

I, Linda Wotton, was born and raised in Saskatchewan. My family transferred to Drayton Valley with Oilwell Supply Company when I was in grade 10. During grade 12 1 worked at the theatre and drive-in concessions and at the Bay store. In the afternoons, I completed my work experience at the hospital. Brent and I graduated from FMHS in 1977. 1 graduated from NAIT in 1978 with my lab and x-ray certificate. After working a year at the hospital, I attended Gardner Bible College in Camrose.

My husband, Brent was born in Killarn. He moved to Drayton Valley when he was in grade 2. Brent played some sports, such as hockey and curling. He has maintained his curling interests through all the years. Brent's parents were transferred to Sedgewick. My parents were transferred to Grand Centre. Brent and I were married in 1982 in Camrose. We spent our first 8 months in Grand Centre, while Brent worked in Lac La Biche. We returned to Drayton. Linda is back to hospital work and Brent continued to work for Belcourt Construction, a power company, which required him to travel many, many miles and to many places. Therefore, Brent was only home on weekends for the first 2 years of our marriage. Brent decided to change that pattern by working in town at LTV Energy Products, National Oilwell and Imperial Oil. He has been with Imperial for 11 years now.

I worked at the hospital as a lab and x-ray technician until 1985. I then headed uptown and worked at Kasper's Medical Lab next door to the Towers Clinic for IO years. I returned to the hospital in 1995 when private labs were closed in the province due to regionalization

Meanwhile we were blessed with 3 wonderful children. Sara, was born September, 1987, Micheal, arrived December, 1991, Tanner, in Sept 1993. We also purchased our first home in 1984.

The children enjoy attending the Christian school. Sara started kindergarten the same year the school was created in 1993. She has been involved in gymnastics, Brownies, Kings Kids club. All 3 children enjoy cross country skiing lessons and swimming lessons. While working at Imperial Oil, Brent successfully started and maintained 2 consecutive businesses until 1997. They were named DV Eavestroughing and U-Sell-It. He sold them to spend more time at home with his family.

We are currently building our new home on an acreage on the ring road. We are looking forward to many more years in Drayton Valley.

HILL AND PAT INNIS

Submitted by Pat Innis

We, Hill , Pat and our sons Brent and Dan moved to Drayton Valley from Bashaw in December, 1965, for Hill to take up his new position of Assistant District Manager for Calgary Power Ltd. (now Transalta Utilities). We purchased a house at 4855-54 Avenue and our next door neighbours were Joan and Bob Findlay and family and Joan and Roy Hale and family. Later, Evelyn and Mike Walkoski purchased the Findlay home after Joan and Bob moved to Edmonton. Shortly after they moved in, a fast little Drayton Valley deluge backed up the storm sewers and most of the basements on our street flooded. Evelyn and Mike were at work and poor Morley, who was 12 or 13 at the time, was quite overwhelmed. The water not only came up their drain, it came in the window well, as well. Our basement was one of the few spared. The Hales had to discard or wash and dry most of the contents of their basement.

L to R, Hill, Pat, Dan and Brent Innis

Brent was in Grade 2 when we moved and Dan began Grade 1 the next fall, after attending one month of kindergarten in the spring. I was pleased to find Mr. Elliot as principal, as his brother Art had been my principal in High School at Tofield.

Both Brent and Dan played minor hockey in Drayton for many years, starting in 1966. Hill coached, managed and was involved in the association from then until 1979 when he transferred to Sedgewick as District Manager for Transalta Utilities, where of course, he continued to coach minor hockey, and also continued again at Rimbey for another 5 years after transferring here in 1982. I tagged along to most games as "head cheerleader" and many, many miles were spent on the road, by car and "Happy Bus". It was a great time and we got to know many fine young men and made lasting friendships, including Lindy Ruff, who played a year each of Bantam and Midget hockey in Drayton and later played and coached hockey in the NHL, and Kevin Martin, Briar Champion who played a year of hockey on Hill's team in Sedgewick.

The boys also played a bit of ball in the early years, but gave it up to swim competitively with the Neptune Swim Club – again many miles were spent travelling to meets and Hill and I were again involved in the club. This also was a fun time and many more great young people were met and friends made.

Brent and Dan both love to fish and there were plenty of places to enjoy the sport in the surrounding area. They went whenever they could, between hockey, swimming and their after school jobs. It was a very busy life for us all in those years.

Working in the power distribution field in Drayton Valley and area, which extended to Alder Flats and almost to Rocky Mountain House was certainly a challenge for Hill and his co-workers, especially in the early years. The well known "gumbo mud" was always a problem in the fields. One of Hill's co-workers in Rimbey, many years later said: "Hill could put a set of tire chains on faster than anyone he ever knew". The rain and lightning storms never seemed to end some summers, and then there was the sleet and wind storms, which drowned trees and poles with great ease. I remember many times, having the holiday trailer packed to get away, when Hill was not on-call, only for a storm to hit and Hill would have to stay "only for a few hours to help" and finally, after a few more such calls, I would unpack the trailer about Sunday morning.

The first year Hill thought he spent more time lost than working, as the oil company roads meandered from well to well, few went straight through, like he was used to. Getting from one well to another, often less than a mile apart, meant making a 20 mile trip around. There never seemed to be any end to the "over-time" and many nights were just "worked through". At times, especially during the "storm" season, our family did not see much of Dad.

To name just some of the Transalta Employees that we worked with during our time in Drayton Valley … I'm sure I will miss a few..Gordon and Arlene Hay, Doreen and Willy Liske, Don and Flo Vanstone, Garry and Carolyne Messenger, Gary and

Annemarie Haack, Ray and Carol Beland, Emerson and Judy Jevne, Lyle and Donna Johnson, Brian and Louise Kyler, Ron and Marlene Kushneriuk, Ed and Wendy Taylor, Gary and Mavis Hamilton, Harvey and Pat Jones, Howie and Peg Thomas, Merv and Marlene Pasula, Jim and Debbie Wylie, Rick and Sharon Funk, Joe and Jossy Bartek, Skip and Nadia Karach, Stan and Louise Torvinen, John and Cindy Brooks, Walt and Bernice Sweet, Alvin and Bernie Yager, John and Linda Fiddler, Dennis and Karen Kirkwood, Ron and Debbie Sheperd, Dave and Jean Bonner, Joanne and Stan Oulton, Brenda Krueger, Joan Taylor, Tom and Sherry Coles, Terry and Lois Wood, Owen and Marilyn Niehaus, Barry McColeman, Don Ferguson, Wally Ushko, Stan Perry.

Shortly after arriving at Drayton Valley we purchased the NW ¼ 33-49-7-5 bordering Highway 22 and Rocky Rapids road. We also rented the quarter on the east border of ours from Mr. T. Daly of Spruce Grove and raised cattle. The only other livestock on "Chimo Creek Ranch" were the boys' occasional horses and Hill's cattle pony, Shadow. We finally began construction on our home there in the fall of 1971 and moved in early 1972. Later on we sub-divided 5 parcels along Highway 22 (Birchfield Acres). Our home in town was purchased by Ray and Carol Beland.

In June, 1966, I began working at the Drayton Valley Municipal Hospital, first in nursing and later in admitting and Medical Records as a typist, until our farm sold and I left to join Hill in Sedgewick in 1979.

Brent and Dan stayed on at Drayton Valley. Brent until 1982 when he and Linda Wotton were married at The Church of God in Camrose and they moved to Grande Centre. They returned to Drayton Valley the next summer. They have 3 children, Sara Dawn, born September 23, 1987, Micheal James, born December 14, 1991 and Tanner Reid, born September 25, 1993. Linda worked as a Laboratory Technician for 10 years, returning to the Drayton Valley Hospital as a combined Lab/Xray Technician in July 1966 when Kasper's Lab closed. Brent has been employed by Texaco and Esso Resources for the past 9 years.

Our last transfer with Transalta was from Sedgewick to Rimbey in July 1982. Hill retired from Transalta in October 1991, and I retired from my position in Health Records at Ponoka General Hospital in 1994, where I had been employed for the past 9 years. In October, 1986 we moved to our quarter section of land on the beautiful valley of the North Blindman River (NW ¼ 27-43-2-5) and continue to raise cattle.

JOHN JACKNIFE

Submitted by Walter Turtiak

John Jacknife was born June 25, 1895 on the Driftpile reserve near Kinuso, Alberta. He married Annie Anderson, who was born in the Enoch reserve, west of Edmonton. They had six children when he homesteaded on SE 19-48-8-5 in the early '30's. He built a small log house, cleared about 20 acres of land with an axe and a grub hoe to get the title to the land. He only had a team of horses. In the summer months, he cleared land by hand for local homesteaders. In the winter, he trapped fur bearing animals. He also worked at logging camps at times.

Their youngest daughter was born on the homestead south-east of Violet Grove. Dolphus, Henry, Helen, Mary all went to the Violet Grove school. In 1943 he sold the quarter to Andy Wickander. He moved to MacKay where he worked for different logging companies. His wife passed away at MacKay at the age of 66. John passed away in 1983 at the age of 88.

Sons Dave, Peter, and Dolphus, married. Henry, single, served in the army during WWII. Helen, was married. Mary, married Fred Haggerty of Drayton Valley. Veronica married and now lives in Calahoo, Alberta. All their children, except Veronica, passed away. They had 27 grandchildren.

This history of John Jacknife was taken from *Where the River Lobstick Flows* history book.

MY TIME IN DRAYTON VALLEY

By Peter Jacobs

In June, 1955, I was 15 years old and hitchhiking to my parents home near Stony Plain. I was returning, with no success, from job-hunting in Edmonton when Charlie Forester picked me up. During our conversation he asked what skills I had and whether I knew how to drive. He offered me a job as camp attendant and spare driver at his trucking business in Drayton Valley, at 50 cents per hour in camp and 25% of what the truck brought in while I was driving. He never asked if I had a driver's license or if I had ever driven a truck before – apparently this wasn't of much importance.

Camp proved to be a yard full of trucks and trailers. My bunkhouse was an 8' x 24' plywood shack with no real kitchen facilities and shared with three other guys. Everyone found his own food. This meant my shack mates ate in restaurants. I had no money for such luxuries so I opened cans and made myself sandwiches. Camp work was general cleaning up, repairing and miscellaneous building – easy stuff for me. The truck driving was a bit more difficult. Besides, not really knowing how to drive, I didn't know where I was going or what to do when

I got there. I know that my truck made more money being stuck or lost than it ever did hauling anything while I was driving.

About a month later, after the grand opening party for Forester Transport's new office, I was looking for work again – by mutual agreement. There I was – no job, little money, no place to live and I hadn't even had anything to eat that day. I walked east towards the town center carrying my suitcase, kicking rocks, mulling over my situation and thinking about food. Seeing the D Crown Lumber yard, I thought, "What the hell ... maybe they could use some help". I applied for work (glossing over the reasons for my unemployment) and was hired immediately as a driver's swamper for 70 cents per hour. Upon telling about my lack of accommodation, I was introduced to Mrs. Von Tettenborn who lived in a skid shack at the back of the Crown Lumber property and had a small trailer for rent. It was about 7' x 8' and only 5' high inside, but dry and out of the weather. The rent was $30 per month-please pay in advance.

While helping with lumber deliveries that day, we stopped at the new Imperial Lumber yard. The manager there recognized me as a new Crown Lumber employee and offered me a job for 10 cents per hour more. When Crown Lumber wouldn't match it, I immediately changed jobs. Three different employers in one day! Perhaps this should be in the Guinness Book of World Records. It wasn't very long before the manager of Crown Lumber (whose yard I was still living in) offered me 10 cents more than Imperial, so I went back to work for them. The 90 cents per hour was good pay for the job I was doing. Unfortunately, while straightening 3' x 12' planks being thrown off a truck, my wrists were injured and I had to take time off work.

Jacobs Studio 1963

I was hanging around the office when a building contractor came in and offered me a job that might be easier on my wrists for $1 per hour. The temptation was too great, so I was gone on another new job. This time framing, forming and pouring concrete for the (then) new Mobil Oil Apartments. That experience brought me to Felix Knorr Construction from Stony Plain. They were building the new (now old) elementary school at 50th Ave. and 50th Street, and would pay me $1.10 per hour!

At this time, I moved out of my trailer because I was promised accommodation in the old school. This didn't happen, so I ended up sleeping under a friend's car. That was okay until it started to rain. I found out that the community hall next door had a surplus 3-hole toilet that I could move off its hole and rent for $30 per month – payable to the caretaker. I took it and, much to the amusement of my fellow employees, put plywood over the holes in the seat and made a bed. They made jokes about it until the rain really started coming down hard. In no time, we had made two more plywood bunks of material borrowed from the job and then there were three of us sleeping in it. Fortunately this didn't last long and soon we were able to move into the old school. That's where I lived until I had to return to school in Stony Plain in September.

In 1956, I was back in Drayton Valley for a short period driving truck and working in construction. Then I moved to Edmonton to finish school before becoming a professional photographer. I came back to Drayton Valley in the fall of 1961 and took children's portraits house to house. Demand was so great that in 1962 I decided to move to Drayton Valley with my wife Nancy and set up a photography business (Jacobs Studio) that, after many years, became a successful venture. It was across the street from what is now the Chamber of Commerce. The studio building was also my home and I lived there with my family until moving into a house in 1969. In 1966, an addition was built behind the photo studio and I used this as a carpentry shop.

The carpentry business (P.Jacobs Construction) expanded rapidly and I sold the photo studio in 1975. The carpentry business expanded to the point that it became a general building contractor doing medium-sized government and industrial projects. The construction business owned a lot of small equipment that was constantly being borrowed by other contractors. We often had difficulty finding it when we needed it, so we decided to charge rent on the equipment. In 1978, these rentals became a separate company called Alltype Rentals that had branches in Drayton Valley and Slave Lake. In time it became the largest equipment yard outside of a city in western Canada. Jacobs Construction was closed in 1990, the rental business in Drayton Valley was sold in 1996 and the branch in Slave Lake in 1998.

During our time in Drayton Valley, Nancy and I have raised a family of three boys. The oldest, Bob, now lives in Toronto and works as a pilot for Air Canada. Jim is now living in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and is a pilot for Emirates Airlines. The youngest, Michael, has lived in Botswana, Africa and in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates as both a teacher and a Human Resources Manager. I find it interesting to look back and see that this town became my home because I was picked up while hitchhiking and offered a job in Drayton Valley so many years ago.

FRED AND PATRICIA JENKINS

Written by Patrica Jenkins

We arrived in Drayton Valley on September 4, 1957, coming from Kelwood, Manitoba, Jenkins home town. My family, the Clarksons were born, raised, and educated in Alberta. My brother Robert and his family were residents in Drayton Valley. We came for a visit and decided to stay.

Jenkins obtained employment with Flint Rig as an Equipment Operator. We rented a cabin in Deby's trailer court and entered our daughter Donna in grade five at the Eldorado School. I applied for a job at the post office and was employed there within a month. In less than a yea, we moved into a trailer in the Flint yard, where there were seven other units. We spent three years with our friends in the compound. The Hasenclevers, S. Metalski, S. Thompsons and P. Smerchinki's, were a few of the families who lived there. We then moved into the Wen-O-Wan apartments, we lived there for a little more than a year and then moved into the Dubois Duplex. We resided there for two years.

Finally, in 1963, we purchased a lot on 47 Ave, for $500, Fekete construction built our home at a cost of – $12,500.00 plus $2300.00 for a fireplace, total of $14,800.00 & at 6% interest for 25 years. Certainly different from today. We moved into our home on September 4, 1964, and I still live here.

After my stint in the post office, I obtained employment in Dr. Waugh's office but soon his practice grew too large to cope with. Dr. Stuart Cameron arrived on the scene and stayed for five years; he then left to advance his education. Dr.'s Eustace and Cookson soon joined Dr. Waugh; both men were from Britain. I spent eleven and a half years in the clinic and I loved my job.

To own a flower shop became an obsession with me. On December 1, 1970, Carol Lawrence and I opened The Valley House of Flowers. We had a florist come out from the city to teach us the basics of flower designing. I bought Carol out a year and a half later. I had the shop from 1970 to 1981 when I sold the business to Judy Forrest, and I retired.

Jenkins worked for Flint for 22 years and retired at age 62. He did a little curling and golf and was a great help around the flower shop. We purchased a motor home and did some travelling.

In 1983, our son-in-law, Bruce Clemmer, bought a lot at Buck Lake. We both bought a fifth-wheel, and many happy times were spent together at the lake.

Jenkins and I belong to the Royal Canadian Legion – Jenkins was in the Air Force for 5 years, and I was in the C.W.A.C. for four years. My husband died of a heart attack in November of 1993.

I belong to the Royal Purple, Oil Wives and the Drayton Valley Entertainers. Drayton Valley is a great community, and I am proud to say we have been residents for forty years.

WILLIAM, SIDNEY, FRED AND HAROLD JEFFERY

Submitted by Joyce Allan (nee Jeffery)

Four young men, William, Sidney, Fred and Harold Jeffery left their ancestral home in the beautiful resort belt of Somerset, England, and their nine brothers and sisters, to answer the call of the prairies. William left England at the age of sixteen in the year 1900 and went to Texas to learn the art of farming from his Uncle Richard. Later Sidney joined William in Texas. They decided to explore further so set out West for California. While working there, they heard of the land opportunities that awaited settlers in the western provinces of Canada so they headed North. They travelled by boat from California and arrived in Vancouver, B.C. This was in the early 1900's, and they departed immediately via train for Edmonton, Alberta, at which place they were joined by their brothers Harold and Fred. Employment was varied and plentiful. Edmonton was growing and the brothers worked all summer on road construction for the City of Edmonton. Soon they were able to purchase a team and wagon and set out on a trek across the southwestern part of the province following the paths and trails to Tomahawk. Not far from Tomahawk they were able to take advantage of the Government offer of 160 acres to each man for the sum of $10, with a three year contract in order to prove that they would be genuine farmers by erecting buildings and breaking thirty acres of soil. They squatted on a piece of land. Harold's land was N.E. 26-49-7-5, Sidney's S.W. 25-49-7-5, Fred's S.E. 26-49-7-5 and William's S.W. 26-49-7-5.

During the extremely cold winter of 1907 they lived in a tent heated by a cookstove and small heater. My Dad said the only thing he had to wear on his head was a Panama hat.

This territory had no name so the brothers decided to call the Central location Rocky Rapids because of the nearness to the rapids on the Saskatchewan River. This name was submitted to the Government and accepted. During the spring many other settlers followed and hoped to carve farms from this new land and a settlement was started. Soon an application for a post office was submitted which was granted to them in a short time. The Jeffery brothers received the contract for the delivery of the mail from Tomahawk to Rocky Rapids. It took a long day's horse back ride for the mail and a day to come back. They were paid $1.00 per round trip. The settlers then picked up their mail from Jeffery's house. William Jeffery was the first Postmaster in Rocky Rapids which opened March 15, 1909. During the winters the brothers worked in logging camps. My Dad was a camp cook. They also cut mine props for the City of Edmonton, and in the summer William and Fred broke land while Sidney and Harold worked on farms near the city. They walked the hundred miles into the city and back in the fall, again to work in the logging camps.

As they gained title to their homesteads in 1911 and 1912 the three younger boys were quick to recognize the difference between farms upon which they were raised in England and this land – so far from markets, railroads, or even the crudest of roads. They sold their interest to Billy (William) and returned to work upon, then rent and eventually buy farms in the Sunnyside area closer to Edmonton. William married Jean Kew of Rocky Rapids, and carried on as a part time rancher, buying cattle in the spring and marketing them as beef to the lumber camps in the fall and winter. Their first child, Elizabeth was born January 4, 1914. With the outbreak of the first World War, many industries in Canada closed down. Lumbering was one of the first to be affected, and thus William lost the market for his beef. In 1917 they left and relocated near his brothers in Sunnyside, north of Edmonton, and later owned a dairy farm in Ladner, B.C.

WES & HAZEL JENNINGS

Written by Hazel Jennings (nee Martin)

I was born in 1921 at Laverna, Saskatchewan to Len and Elsie Martin, the second daughter of five girls.

We farmed there until 1933 when we moved by team and wagon, north to the Paradise Valley area. Here we attended Cheviot Hills School and made many friends. In 1936 my folks once again decided to move, again by team and wagon, west to the Violet Grove area, having heard good reports of the district from neighbors, the Giles Davis's. I finished school and made my home here until 1942 when I met Wes Jennings.

Wes was born in 1918 at Busby, Alberta and was raised in that area. He too was working at the Stordosvol sawmill when I was a cook. It was located in the Pete Gregersen quarter, which was just a couple of miles from my folks' place. We were married on February 6, 1942, and started our farming career back at Busby. 1949 saw us back in the Violet Grove area, renting the Lawrence Schmidt place, which was formally the Gregersen quarter and the old sawmill local, back where it all started! While here, our three eldest children attended the same Violet Grove school where I had been.

Wes and Hazel Jennings and family

Our next move was to the Sion district, west of Alcomdale, once again farming for a living. In 1961, we moved to Entwistle where Wes sold Rawleigh products. Five years later itchy feet took us to the Highridge area, where we farmed for 18 years. Finally finding farming no longer appealing, we sold out and purchased a house in Jarvie, Alberta, where we still reside near our three sons, three daughters, twenty four grandchildren and to date, 20 great-grandchildren. We enjoy being near our family, gardening, fishing, and visiting with friends. We still go back to the Drayton Valley area at least once a year to visit old friends: the Dunningtons, Beirkos, Davis and Beckett families. We both have pleasant memories of the area and we are looking forward to reading the area history book.

THEODORE AND KAREN JENSEN

Written by Patrecia Mastre (Jensen)

Hello, I am Patrecia Mastre (Jensen) and this is the story of how my family came to settle in Rocky Rapids and later in Drayton Valley. The Jensen's arrived in Entwistle, Alberta on January, 10 1931, after 1½ days travelling by train from Matsoui, B.C..

The family consisted of father, Theodore Bernard, mother, Karen Jergina, sons Ernie, Chester, Alvin and daughters Dora and Patricia. A son, Lloyd, remained in B.C. until approximately a year later when he joined the family. The family brought all their worldly possessions in a train car. These included two head of cattle, which dad had to accompany in the boxcar to insure they had feed and water for the journey. You can be sure it was an unpleasant trip for him as he left the green of the Fraser Valley to travel to the bush country winter. Our weekly mailman brought us out in his 1926 Chevy from Entwistle to Rocky Rapids.

A substantial log house was built by dad and friends a year earlier. The next day dad and our new neighbours went with teams and sleighs to retrieve our family possessions from the train station. Needless to say, the cows had to walk. The new homestead was located near the river valley, 2 miles east and 1¾ miles south of the Rocky Rapids store. Eventually, the family owned 3 additional quarters of land in the vicinity of the original farm.

Theodore and Karen Jensen in front of the first home in Rocky Rapids

Just imagine this families chagrin at finding their new home lacked the amenities they had become accustomed to in Matsqui: things like running water, electricity, and fruit growing right on the trees in their yard. This young family had to learn the ways of the country. At the harshest time of the year, with no ready food supply, we lived from the labour of our own hand. We planted a large garden, picked the abundant wild berries and prevailed upon the great hunting skills of our neighbour, John Mastre, to provide us with a continuous supply of wild game.

We learned the fine art of barter since we had little money and the store had the sugar, salt and tea we needed. Mother would churn butter when there was extra cream, allowing her to trade it at the store,. Mom's butter was well renowned for its sweet flavour and it was always welcomed at Comb's store.

Our diet was pretty basic, using the products at hand. When we had wheat we took sacks of grain to Entwistle to be ground into white and brown flour, saving some out to be ground extra fine for our morning porridge. Life was hard and most work done by hand. All the land clearing was done with axes, grub axes and teams of horses. To have fresh water, shallow wells were dug by hand. Frequently these went dry which then would necessitate hauling water from a spring 2½ miles away to water the cattle. Having so many sons was a big benefit to the Jensen family as the boys could work for other people and in return receive farm machinery or perhaps a cow or a horse which would be seen as a very welcome addition to the farm.

Neighbours were few and far between so communication was limited and so was the potential for entertainment. Most days the family was in bed by 9:00 PM. Although we had a battery radio its use was limited since batteries were scarce and expensive. Travel was accomplished by horse team and wagon or sleigh in Winter. The children walked to school a distance of 3½ miles and frequently missed school in winter due to harsh weather. The school was a one room school with about 30 students in all grades. Learning sometimes took a back seat to chores like tending the fire or thawing inkwells.

Entertainment was limited to sleigh rides in the winter, swimming and softball in the summer. The two big events of our year were the school Christmas concert and the Dominion Day picnic which was put on by the local community.

Our family felt very secure as we never locked our doors and we counted on our neighbours to help us through difficulty as we would surely help them. Life was very hard but very rewarding. Seeing how our family had to depend on each other. The Jensen family worked hard and was rewarded in their new home by success in later years.

FRITZ AND AUGUSTA JOESTING

Written by Evelyn (Joesting) Tucker

Dad, Fritz Joesting was born in 1899, and came to Canada from West Germany in 1925. Somehow he was able to obtain a job in Spruce Grove, Alberta, working on a farm for Mr. John Baron. Mom, Augusta Meering born 1905, arrived in Canada in May of 1926 to join her old country sweetheart. They were married in Spruce Grove, on July 8, 1926. They both continued to work on Mr. Baron's farm for a few years. Martin was born there

Augusta and Fritz Joesting

on May 10, 1927. Then Dad worked for Harold McLaughlin until 1930.

They made the decision to move to Violet Grove and start a homestead of their own. I was born July 25, 1931 in Violet Grove.

Dad was on a hunting trip with a friend, Mr. Wollschlager, when he decided we were moving up the Pembina river to start farming in that area. Sometime in 1932, the family moved up the river where we lived in a tent for awhile. Dad found an old trappers cabin which he took down, moved and rebuilt so we could live in it on our new homestead. This was our home for awhile. He then cut the logs and built our log cabin which we lived in for years.

When I was around four years old, the family moved back to Spruce Grove where Dad worked for Mr. McLaughlin again for a few years. Martin was going to school and I started school there, too. My sister, Doris, was born November 20, 1938.

In the spring of 1939, we came back up the river. Dad had bought an old tractor and a few cows, to start farming again. Now we had to take our schooling by correspondence which was very hard for Mom, as she also had to learn to read and write in English as well as try to teach Martin and I, and, later on, Doris as well. Mom's tutors were Ike & Stan Rye, bachelor brothers who lived about a mile away across the river from us. Mrs. Dave Glen, another neighbor, helped as well but she lived about five miles farther up the river. In later years I attended school in Drayton Valley and Dunnington.

During the years of getting the farm going, we milked cows, shipped the cream, and raised pigs. In

Augusta, Fritz, Evelyn, and Doris Joesting

the winter months, Dad would go out and get work in the lumber camps. As we got older we all had to help with milking the cows and the other chores. Our nearest grocery store was in Violet Grove, which was fifteen miles away. To get there we had to travel with our team and a wagon over the rough wagon trail. We would make this trip every two weeks on Sunday to meet the freight truck, so we could ship the cream or take in hogs to sell.

On rare occasions when we all went to the store, we would have a picnic going home in the wagon. It was a real treat to have a loaf of store bought bread, sardines and orange crush pop. I can't remember the price of bread but I think the pop was 7 cents a bottle. What a treat!

My parents had to overcome many hardships that are too numerous to mention and of course may have been forgotten. We did have our good times, too. Mom and Dad celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 1951. They had a double celebration with our neighbors, the Glens.

On Dec. 8, 1950, I married Ted Tucker and we have five sons, Jack, Jim, Milton, Richard and Chris.

On July 2, 1955, my brother Martin married Dolly Mikulin. They had two sons, Wayne and Ernie. On Feb. 8, 1958, my sister, Doris, married

Augusta and Fritz Joesting's 25th Anniversary

Walter Lainchbury and they have three children, Robert, Debbie, and Raymond.

In 1959 my parents built a new house with all the modern conveniences such as running water, an indoor bathroom, and electricity. Things were really good for them now. Together they took a couple of trips back to Germany. Mom went on a few more, including one when she was accompanied by her grandson Bob Lainchbury. In 1975, tragedy struck my brother's oldest son, Wayne Joesting, when he drowned.

Augusta and Fritz Joesting's 50th Anniversary

In July of 1976, we celebrated Mom and Dad's Golden Wedding Anniversary, but by this time Dad was in very poor health. On July 6, 1977, Dad passed away with cancer. On Dec 23, 1985 my brother Martin passed away with a heart attack. On Feb 25, 1990 Mom passed away from kidney problems. On April 4, 1996 my sister Doris passed away with cancer.

WILLIAM G. AND PHYLLIS A. JOHANNESON

It was a beautiful day – that day I first saw the new town of Drayton Valley. The sky above was that pale but clear blue of an artist's touch with only a trace of cloud wraiths scattered above. The temperature must have been close to 70 F with barely a whisper of wind. It was just after one o'clock in the afternoon. I had journeyed out from Edmonton, where I had stayed overnight at my sister & brother-in-law's. It was November 2nd, 1957 and I was coming out to be interviewed for the position of Secretary-Treasurer for the town.

Drayton Valley at that time was a town of mobile homes, skid shacks and temporary quarters. In fact, when I came to the town that afternoon I drove right on past. Finally, coming to what was then called Campion Corner, I reckoned I had come too far. Seeing a man on a tractor in the field, I stopped and inquired the whereabouts of the Town of Drayton Valley. On being told it was back along the road I had just come, I turned around and retraced my way.

By two o'clock I had found my way to the Town Office – a small cottage just across 52nd Avenue from what is now Mulligan's Insurance Office – and met the mayor and councillors and the Town Manager. The Mayor was Howard W. Pickup and Councillors were David Chow, Frank Bosworth, John Getzinger, Harry Knight, and Donald G. Mackenzie. The Town Manager was Beatty Cumming. The interview ended by my accepting the position of Secretary-Treasurer for the town, to commence January 16th, 1958, thus allowing time for my present employer, the Village of Winnipegosis, Manitoba, a chance to procure a replacement, and the replacement to become familiar with the position.

On Friday January 13, 1958, I worked my last day for the Village of Winnipegosis. Early the next morning, I took off for the Town of Drayton Valley – a distance of 805 miles, knowing I would have to take the best part of two days to make the journey. Because accommodations were very scarce, I had made arrangements with the Council & Town Manager to live in the small room at the rear of the Town Office.

Monday, January 16, 1958, I commenced work with the town. There were three of us, Mr. Beatty Cummings – Town Manager, Elva Cummings – Receptionist & typist, and myself – Secretary-Treasurer. The population of the town was 2885; and most lived in mobile homes, skid shacks and temporary accommodations such as they could find. At the time, there were approximately 300 water and sewer accounts, so residences hooked up to services could not have been more than 200. However, with all the inconveniences in living conditions, there was a general atmosphere of enthusiasm, progress and stability where everything contradicted it.

Accounting procedures, of course, in those days, were pretty rudimentary. The Revenue and Expenditure records were all posted in a synoptic journal, written up by hand daily. The water and sewer records were recorded by hand in the Water & Sewer Journal and the same with the Property Taxes. Also, at that time, the town had a poll tax, a tax imposed on individuals who had no property to tax.

It was not hard to become a part of the community and enmeshed in the activities. People were friendly and helpful. The town and district were booming with the discovery and production of oil. The town was made up of young people – the average age at the time was between 11 & 12 years, and in consequence the need for schools and playgrounds/recreations areas was a high priority.

As I was becoming familiar with my responsibilities as Sec-Treas, other activities were going ahead that would change the life style in the town. Brown & Root Construction Ltd. were setting up natural gas separation plants in various sectors of the Pembina Oilfield. Northwestern Utilities Ltd. were installing distribution pipelines within the Town to provide natural gas fuel for the town. By early spring, 1958, the natural gas distribution system was completed and turned on for the users.

As all this was going on, a new, modern, substantially larger Town Hall was being built on a site immediately across 51 Avenue from the Energy Conservation building. It was completed and ready for occupancy in mid March of 1958. The opening/dedication ceremonies were held with Lieutenant-Governor Percy Page officiating as ribbon cutter and Mayor Adrian Meier, Chamber of Commerce President James C. Cunnin, Town Manager Beatty Cummings in support. In addition to the civic office, the Edson Health Unit, the Drayton Valley Library, the Town Police Force, and the Fire Dept took up abode in the new building.

Here I might give some background. I was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on July 26, 1920. My father had immigrated from Iceland with his father in 1901, as a child of nine. Whilst growing up, he had completed sufficient school to read, write and communicate very well in English. Shortly after the onset of WW I, he joined the Canadian Army and was sent overseas to fight in the European conflict. He met and married an English girl in London in the last year of the war. After the cease fire, he brought his bride to Winnipeg. However, after about three years in Winnipeg, work became hard to come by so we moved out to the Village of Winnipegosis where he had lived before the war. Then in the fall of 1923, we again moved out to the quarter section of land on Red Deer Point, a place approximately fourteen miles north of Winnipegosis. Here he operated a lumber and box mill for John Stefanson and sold the logs from our quarter for processing in the mill.

We moved back to Winnipegosis in August, 1927, in order that I could go to school. I attended the Winnipegosis School system until graduating from grade 11 in June, 1937. After working at a number of jobs from fire fighting, sorting fish in the large company fish stations in Winnipegosis, ranching and then logging and lumbering the last three years, I joined the Canadian Army – The Royal Canadian Artillery – in August of 1940. Our unit went overseas in February, 1941, and after a very rough ocean trip, we landed at Guerroch, Scotland on the 26th of February, 1941. This was near Glasgow, from which we took a train for Colchester, Essex, the county east of London and bordering on the North Sea. In Colchester we were billeted in the old artillery barracks, just off Bottolf's Street.

I spent just over three years in England with the unit manning gun sites above the south and southeast coast in places or near places such as Godalming, in Surrey; Little Hampton, Bexhill-on-Sea, Shorrham, Worthing, Rye & Lydd, New Haven, all in West Sussex.

In June 1944, I commenced Officer Training School and whilst on a brief leave between one school and another, met my future wife, Phyllis Eustace in Brighton, Sussex. I graduated on April 21, 1945 from Officer Training School at Catterick, Yorkshire, and was assigned to Bordon, Hants, as an artillery troop instructor to recruits coming over from Canada.

War in Europe ended in May, 1945. Those with long service in Europe were hustled to staging camps for embarkation for Canada. I left from Southampton on the 26th of August, 1945, on the Isle de France and landed in Quebec City on the beginning of September, from where we entrained and traveled to Winnipeg, and thence to Winnipegosis for a leave

stay with my parents. As earlier stated, I met my wife Phyllis in Brighton on the 22nd of July, 1944. We were able to meet from time to time for a day or two at a time, but sufficiently to know we wanted to get married and that day came on April 26, 1945 in the Congregational Church in Hassocks, Sussex.

Phyllis came over to Canada in the beginning of April, 1946. We took up residence in Winnipeg as I was employed as the Demobilization Officer at #3 Wireless School in Charles Wood, Winnipeg.

Phyllis delighted in window shopping in Winnipeg and seeing so much on display after six years of utility living in war torn England.

I was retired from the services on July 11, 1946, and having tentatively accepted the position of Secretary-Treasurer of the Village of Winnipegosis to commence December 1, 1946, on completion of an administration and business course at Mall College in Winnipeg, I lived in Winnipeg for four months slugging out a highly concentrated accounting and business law course, while my wife patiently waited our first arrival back in Winnipegosis with my parents. I successfully completed my course and commenced duties with the Village of Winnipegosis on Dec 1, 1946.

We lived in Winnipegosis from that day until our move to Drayton Valley – myself on January 16, 1958 and my family in August, 1958. All five of our children were born in Winnipegosis – Robin Keith on January 18, 1947, Barry Lee on April 2, 1948, Brenda Denise on May 26, 1950, Aileen Janice on March 15, 1953 and Derrik William on July 3, 1958.

When I came out to assume the position of Secretary-Treasurer for the Town of Drayton Valley, I had left my wife Phyllis and my four children at home knowing that accommodation was a real problem. I made a trip back to Manitoba on the Victoria Day long weekend to be with my family for a short while. However, it wasn't till mid July that we finally were able to get moving the whole family to Alberta. We packed all our personal property including some furniture etc. for moving, and I held an auction of everything else right on site. On or about the 26th of July 1958, we left Winnipegosis in our 1948 Pontiac Sedan – with the 1954 motor – and commenced our sojourn, 2 adults and 5 children ranging in age from 11 years to 3 weeks. Derrik had been born on July 3, 1958. We made it to Edmonton after a stop overnight in the Big "T" Motel in Saskatoon. My sister Rose and her husband Al lived in Edmonton and gave us sanctuary until I was able to procure accommodations in Drayton Valley. It wasn't until about ten days later that I got lucky and managed to rent a skid shack for six weeks from a couple who were going on holiday.

And so with many other newcomers, I found myself buying a lot in a new block in order to have our home built thereon. I got Wagoner Construction Ltd. to excavate and construct a basement. They could work after hours because they were so busy on other projects. However, by the latter half of August, Muttart Builders were able to deliver material already cut and prepared for a house of 24 feet x 28 feet. From then on it was necessary to do what most everybody on that block were having to do: work on from after work in the evenings and before work in the mornings, helping whatever carpenter you were able to hire for your project. I was lucky when Doug Simison agreed to help me out. He gave a good deal of his directing and working on the building along with a couple of labourers he knew. When the end of September came and we had to move out of the skid shack, our house was completed on the exterior, but inside only sub floors were in the kitchen, living room, and hallway. We only had a double hot plate, no cupboards, just a sink. In the living room we had a pile of gyproc piled about table high for completing the ceilings, but Phyl had insisted we get a television, as the World Series Baseball games would be on. Generally speaking, we became esconced in our abode whilst ongoing building would take place. However, it did provide us with more space than the skid shack did and it was ours.

Shortly after moving into the house, I was appointed a magistrate in, and for the Province of Alberta, which, over the years provided much in the way of extra curricular activity.

When the ice curling season opened that fall, I joined the Curling Club and played with Conrad (Red) Fuhr, Maurice (Mac) McCullagh and Will Dusterhoft. We had a real fine winter of curling – made no outstanding tournament wins – but enjoyed our curling together. For Mac and his wife, Hazel, and my wife Phyl and me, it became the birth of a fine, wholesome friendship.

Shortly after getting settled in Drayton Valley, I had my membership in the Royal Canadian Legion Br. #91 in Winnipegosis transferred to the new Royal Canadian Legion Br. #269 in Drayton Valley. In those days we held our meetings in the Community Hall – the same site as the present Elks' Building is today.

I also joined the Drayton Valley and District Chamber of Commerce and was quite active in it – playing the role of Sec.-Treasurer and on up to President in the late 50's and early 60's. In fact, at the tenth anniversary of the Pembina Oilfield going into production, the Chamber of Commerce played a principal part in the ceremonies of the day, partic-

ularly the dedication of the facsimile of the Oil Rig erected in front of the Town Hall. The Honorable A.R. Patrick, Minister of Trade and Commerce as the representative of the Government of Alberta, officiated, and being president of the Chamber of Commerce at the time, it was my pleasant duty and privilege to introduce the Minister. However, I will always regret missing the wedding of James Koehmstedt and Violet Wiebe on that day – June 22, 1963, on account of the anniversary responsibilities.

In the spring of 1965, Art Playford and myself, as delegates from the Drayton Valley and District Chamber of Commerce, joined other delegates from Chambers of Commerce from Central Alberta to fly to Vancouver to meet with the Honorable Mr. Gagliardi, Minister of Transport for the Government of British Columbia. Our goal was to gain BC support in the "Howse Pass" Highway cut-off from the Saskatchewan Crossing on the Banff-Jasper Highway through to Donald Station on the Blueberry River, thus cutting the route to BC by many miles. Although there was acquiescence from the meeting, it was felt to be too soon.

During the 60's – 1963 and on, Drayton Valley residents enthusiastically took part in the Kootenay Plain rallies to support the highway from Rocky Mountain House to the Saskatchewan Crossing. Our family first went on the Kootenay Plain rally in 1963. We had just purchased a 1963 Classic Station Wagon and this was the first lengthy trip we had taken in it. Any body having made the trip out to the Kootenay Plains from Drayton Valley will know how dirty and dusty the road – very unimproved especially from Nordegg – was. We managed to get within about three miles of the campsite when our motor just refused to go. The air filter was so full of dust accumulation, that it choked the motor. We made it to the campsite after removing the air filter, but I spent a goodly portion of my time that weekend blowing the dust out of the air filter with a hand tire pump. However, we enjoyed the outing – each rally would bring thousands of people out and there would be a pancake breakfast for the rally on the Sunday morning hosted by one of the Municipalities from Central Alberta. The Town of Drayton Valley hosted the 1965 Rally Breakfast and it was mooted about that there were nearly 5000 in attendance that day.

Drayton Valley, being a new town – and sometimes called a model town – required amenities of all kinds. When I arrived in 1958, the Town had a thriving Curling Club and a four sheet rink. However, there was no skating rink, so in no time the Rotary Club undertook to construct one and sited on the NW corner of the Rotary Park – kitty corner across from the Pickup residence. I remember that we got pipe and sucker rod material from the oil companies, lumber etc. from the lumberyards and lots of volunteer labour to build the first open air skating rink in Drayton Valley. It was a real community undertaking – spearheaded by the Rotary Club. From those small beginnings, Drayton Valley in its still short life – as communities go – has gone on to much bigger and better facilities. The first indoor arena opened for use in December, 1966, just before Centennial Year as it was the Centennial Project. Along with most of the adolescents, our children immediately commenced using it – skating, hockey and figure skating.

In the summer of 1963, consideration was put forward to forming an Air Cadet Squadron in Drayton Valley. Early parties promoting this organization were Maurice R. McCullagh, John Hurley, John Bootsma and Walter Krause. On broaching the subject to the R.C. Legion Br. #269, they received immediate backing and the Squadron was formed with Maurice R. McCullagh as its first Commanding Officer, John Hurley as its first Adjutant and John Bootsma as its first Supply Officer. Walter Krause became Chairman of the Civilian Committee and I was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. From that time till November, 1970, I played many parts in the life of the Squadron, traveled most summers with them for their two week military concentrated training at CFB Penhold Airport, where the Cadets would be kept busy drilling on the parade square, small arms firing at the rifle butts, at least one relaxation and recreation weekend – most times at Sylvan Lake and sometimes a flight in a glider. Over the years, I went up the rankings, Adjutant to Commanding Officer, and always enjoyed the camaraderie of the quasi military life in the Cadets.

Whilst all of these pursuits were going on, our family was growing up and pursuing activities of their own. Barry acquitted himself very well as a quarter back in the local teen football teams and as well on the ice in winter in the hockey teams. Brenda was selected to go to Chicoutami in Quebec with a group of Grade eleven and twelve students hosted by John Bright and wife, Kathy. On her return, she had nothing but good to say of the trip and of the people in Chicoutami, Quebec. Aileen took up figure skating whilst still quite young, certainly before her teen years and mastered the intricacies of the art very well. We were well into the ice skating dances and preliminary jumps when she quit. Derrik, too, took up figure skating, which helped in hockey.

Barry commenced employment with the Department of Highways at Evansburg, then quit

that to work in the Government Liquor Store in Evansburg, then when opportunity beckoned again, he joined North Canadian Oil Ltd. in Evansburg to operate their system emanating out of Evansburg. Then over the years, he followed this company as it merged and/or was bought – to N.C.O., to Norcen and to Northwestern Utilities Ltd. – requiring moves to Hinton and now to Sherwood Park.

He and Christine Barnhart of the Evansburg/ Wildwood district were married in September

1971, just after Christine joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as stenographer/receptionist in Evansburg. As in Barry's case, she moved with the RCMP to Hinton and now to Sherwood Park and over the years received added responsibilities and promotions. They have two children, a boy, Jay Lawrence, born in June 1974; a daughter Joy Leanne, born in June, 1980. They now live in Sherwood Park in a lovely comfortable home.

Brenda took up stenography and became proficient on computers when employed in Edmonton at Sears Kingsway Store, as the Manager's secretary, etc. Brenda married Ernst van den Biggelaar in July, 1970, and they now have two children, Carianne and Craig William. Brenda presently is a special aide's teacher in a R.C. Separate School in South Edmonton. Both of their children are married, and Craig and his wife Lisa have given us our first great-grandchildren, Sophie born in February 1994, and a boy born in August 1998.

Aileen married Stanley Muzylouski in September 1970. They had twin girls, Deanna and Denise, in December 1970. Aileen and Stanley were divorced in 1981. Aileen continued to operate and work in the hair care salon (The Upper Cut) in Red Deer and provided a fine lifestyle for her two girls. They have now been on their own and gainfully employed since school and college days. Deanna is a flight attendant for Canada 3000; and Denise works for a publishing and distribution company.

Derrik, after a couple years at NAIT studying Electronic Engineering and Communications, found work with Systel Electronic Ltd. of Drayton Valley and Red Deer in the fall of 1978. In November, 1988, he took advantage of an opportunity to buy into a partnership in Tac Mobility Inc. of Kelowna, and has successfully been in business there since.

Over the years, Phyllis and I have managed to enjoy a good deal of traveling – both automobile and airplane. When Phyl had been in Canada as long as she had lived in England in August 1966, we were able to fund a trip to England for her on WardAir. While she was away visiting her folks in England, a good opportunity came up to up-grade our residence, a move to a newer and larger home, and so when Phyl arrived back it was to a new residence and all a big surprise. Additionally, aside from motor trips to other provinces of Canada and many states in the USA, we have flown to the Hawaiian Island in 1978, 1983 and 1986, to England and parts of Europe in 1971, 1975, 1979, 1982, 1985, 1990, 1993 and 1995; and to Iceland in 1997. In reverse, we have hosted our relatives from England at our home in 1973, 1980, 1984, 1990 and 1994.

Phyl and I have had a very fine life with wonderful family outings and get-togethers. We have maintained very close family ties over the years and hope to continue them for some time to come.

Our move to Drayton Valley forty years ago has always been considered an important benchmark in our life. We view the move as the finest opportunity that we have never regretted. Drayton Valley has been good to us and we have tried to be good for Drayton Valley.

ANDREW AND THELMA (LAINCHBURY) JOHNSON

Written by Elaine and Delphine – 1997

Andrew Hunter Johnson was born in Edmonton, Alberta, January 22, 1917 – first child of Nels Carl and Mary Hunter Johnson. Nels was born in Sweden July 27, 1877, and came to Canada in 1915. He met Mary at the Pelter farm in New Norway, Alberta, where they both worked in 1915. Mary was born in Scotland – August 29, 1892, and came to Canada at 21 years of age. They were married in Edmonton on October 27, 1915. In 1916 they took a homestead in the Drayton Valley area, NW-15-49-7-W5, built a log house and moved in with infant son, Andrew. They came by railway to Entwistle, then to Drayton Valley in a wagon. The road was rough, built over swampy ground with logs, (called corduroy roads). They were so rough that Mary's dress was worn through from constant rubbing as they bumped along. Four children were born in the log house – Robert, Annie, Oscar and Gertrude, who passed away at 9 years of age and is buried at the Beechmount cemetery in Edmonton.

Andrew attended school in Drayton Valley for five months since there wasn't any school during the winter months. He helped his father clear land and drove an oxen team while his father held the walking plough. After leaving school he worked for farmers around Drayton Valley for $20.00 a month. In the winter months he worked in logging camps in the area for 80 cents a day. In the fall of 1935, he went to Camrose and got a job stooking for Anton Hoyme. In the spring he returned to Alder Flats and worked for Mr. Pearson for $25.00 a month plus

room and board. He saved enough money to buy a Model T Ford car. In the fall, of 1937, he and three other lads headed south looking for work. They got as far as Stavely where they ran out of gas with only 10 cents in their pockets. The 10 cents bought a bag of puffed wheat, and they raided a few gardens before they were fortunate enough to get jobs on a farm for $1.50 a day. Andrew worked a couple of falls harvesting in that area. In the fall of 1939, he went to work in the sawmills, sawing lumber year round for Hystad Bros. at Buck Creek.

Andrew and Thelma Johnson's wedding, 1941

He met Thelma Irene Lainchbury at a dance at Norman Hall which was located two miles south of Rocky Rapids store. Thelma was the third child of Alfred and Frances Lainchbury, born October 24, 1923 at Lakesend District about 20 miles south of Hughenden, Alberta. She moved to Drayton Valley in 1939 with her parents and brothers and sisters – Isabel, Louise, Elwin, Iona, Albert and Walter. Another sister, Margaret, was born two months later. Thelma attended school at Lakesend, Alberta – one teacher from Grade One through Grade Eight. After coming to Drayton Valley she went to Edmonton to work as a housemaid for Dr. and Mrs. Rutherford. Mr. Rutherford was the first Premier of Alberta. She lived in and was paid $15.00 per month. Mrs. Rutherford was very fussy and made sure Thelma earned her pay. She would go around every day and run her fingers over door sills to make sure there was no dust. She questioned Thelma about stealing cookies from where she hid them in the basement and later found out the culprit was her diabetic husband. They were very sorry when Thelma took sick and had an appendix operation and returned home to Drayton Valley. She later went back to Edmonton and worked at the Snowflake Laundry. The pay was better and she shared a housekeeping room for $15.00 a month with her sister, Louise.

Garry and Delphine Johnson

Andrew was making regular trips to the city so it wasn't long before she returned to Drayton Valley and they were married in November 3, 194 1. After their marriage, Andrew and Thelma lived in Buck Creek in a tar paper shack at Hystad Bros. Lumber camp where Andrew worked. Their son Alfred was born on November 24, 1942. In the spring they moved to Grande Prairie, Alberta, with the Hystads to the Wapiti River where a camp was set up and another tar paper shack was built for them . In March, 1945, they moved to the farm in Drayton Valley and built a small three room house. On July IO, 1945, son Garry was born and on May 28, 1949, daughter Delphine arrived. With the family increasing, another room was added to the house and on September 30, 1954 daughter Elaine was born. In 1959, they built a new house and on July 15, 1962 their last child Kelvin was born.

L to R, Alfred, Elaine, Andrew, Thelma, Kelvin, Delphine, Garry Johnson

In 1966, they sold the farm and moved to Vernon, British Columbia where they bought five acres of land on which they planted a vineyard to produce grapes and sold vegetables, cucumbers and corn. Andrew also built another new house. In 1979, they sold their property in Vernon, British Columbia, and moved back to Alberta to an acreage, Lakeside County Estates, west of Wetaskiwin. This time Andrew built a basement and moved a new modular home onto it. They resided there until their untimely death on January 13, 1991 in a vehicle accident at Hansenville comer near Wildwood, Alberta. They were on their way home from a holiday in Vernon, British Columbia visiting friends. They are both buried in the Drayton Valley Riverview Cemetery.

To date their eldest son, Alfred resides in Kamloops, British Columbia. He has three children:
– Daughter Theresa and husband Keith Hinter – Daughter Bambi and son, Matthew.
– Daughter Charlette and husband Kevin Hornle – Daughter Ericka and son, Wyatt.
– Son Blaine and wife Karen Johnson – Sons Samuel and Caleb and daughter, Isaiah.

Garry and his wife Connie reside in the Drayton Valley area and have two daughters:
– Daughter Donna and her Daughter Corrina
– Daughter Tanya

Delphine and her husband, Edwin Shewfelt, live in the Stony Plain area and have five children:
– Son Norman and wife Daniela
– Son Wade and wife Colleen – Sons Jesse and James "Rookie"
– Daughter Kathleen
– Daughter Carolyn
– Son Rodney

Elaine and husband Marvin McDonagh live near Carvel, Alberta and have two children
– Daughter Denyse
– Son Christopher

Kelvin and wife Lori live near Carvel, Alberta and have one child
– Son Michael

ROBERT AND ISABEL JOHNSON

Robert Johnson, is the second son of Nels and Mary Johnson, who homesteaded one mile east and one mile north of the Drayton Valley town site in 1916 (NW ¼ 5-49-7-W5). Isabel, was the oldest daughter of Alfred and Frances Lainchbury, who moved to Drayton Valley from southern Alberta in 1939.

Robert Johnson, married Isabel Lainchbury, January 23, 1942, in Edmonton, Alberta. Robert had a job at the time hauling birch wood out of the bush west of Violet Grove. They had plans to move a house onto his parents property, but March 12, 1942 at age 22, Robert enlisted in the Army and went to Camrose for three months to do basic training, then to Brandon, Manitoba, where he joined the artillery. In Winnipeg he took a gun fitters course which he finished in Barry, Ontario. One year later, in March 1943, Robert was shipped overseas to England. He fought in the front lines in France, Holland and Germany, and returned safely, just before Christmas, 1945. While Robert was away at war, Isabel lived with her parents in Drayton Valley. Robert would have liked a career in the Army, but that was not to be. He was discharged in the spring of 1946.

Robert W. Johnson, 1942

Robert and Isabel bought two quarters of land to farm just south of town. SE ¼ 5-49-7-W5 from Stan Pickavance, and NE ¼ 5-49-7-W5 from John McKenzie. Their first home was a log house on the Pickavance quarter, built by the Brownbill family. Their first child, Connie, was born in Oct., 1946. Helen was born in Oct., 1947 and their third daughter, Myrtle, was born in December, 1948. About 1951 they bought a two story house built by Fred Hodge in the area of the Country Style Trailer Court. The house was put on skids and moved with a caterpillar tractor one mile south of town. A cellar was dug and the house was put in place. A boy, Dale, was born in April, 1952.

Isobel and Robert Johnson

Connie started grade one in the fall of 1952, followed by Helen, in 1953 along with five other grade ones at that time. Mrs. Deby was the teacher. Robert took the girls to school some cold days with his horse drawn wagon. Before the 53/54 school term was finished, the oil company families were moving in. There was not enough classroom space, nor teachers. For a while, Connie went to school one day and Helen the next day. School houses were moved in from other areas to accommodate all the new students. By the fall of '54, there were already two class rooms of grade two's.

The first oil well was drilled in 1954 on Robert's home quarter just south of the house and farm yard, by the Seaboard Oil Co. The oil lease money was used by Robert & Isabel to make improvements on their house. They raised their house with jacks. Ernie Jensen made forms and built them a basement. Ed Erickson then moved the house on to the basement. Soon the house was wired. The Oil Companies brought in electric power before the farmers could. Brenda, the fifth child was born in April, 1955. Natural gas was brought into the house about 1956. The land owners along 50th street then formed a co-op to put in the phone lines, consisting of a party line then with five different rings. Home oil drilled an oil well on the bottom quarter in 1956.

It was common to see the black billowing smoke from open pits burning excess oil. One of those pits was along 50th street south, where the smoke blew across the road, making the walk to school very scary. John Getzinger's school bus started to pick up students about 1958 the year Dale started school.

Robert started working for the Town of Drayton Valley in 1964. He worked with the crews putting water and sewer lines in where new homes would be built on Mrs. Deby's land and on Beckett's, now Aspenview. Later, he ran the water plant and the sewer plant.

Connie married Ray Jevne, youngest son of Winnie and Ross Jevne. They raised their three children in Edmonton. Ray is a trucker, and makes long hauls to the U.S.A. Connie has worked at an elementary school as a Teachers aide since 1975.

L-R, Back Row- John Gauthier, Dale Johnson, Ray Jevne, Burton Kennedy, Myrtle Kennedy, Robin Gray. Middle Row- Thelma Johnson, Helen Gauthier, Robert Johnson, Brenda Gray. Front – Connie Jevne

Myrtle married Burton Kennedy. They had three children, and have lived most of their married life in Drayton. Burt is in business in the oil field. They moved to the Violet Grove area when they bought a quarter of land in 1992. Burton is the son of Wesley & Vinetta Kennedy, who moved to Drayton Valley in 1957 from High River, AB. Wes owned Oil Capital Pressure Wire line until 1979.

Helen married John Gauthier, who first came to the area from Plamondon, Alberta, to work on the Brazeau Dam. They have three children. They spent a few years in Fort McMurray and Prince George B.C. They now live on a quarter of land just north of town SW ¼ 18-50-7-W5 bought in 1982. John worked in the oil field with a steamer and brush mowers and also works on his farm. Helen began working at the Shangri-La Seniors' Lodge in 1988.

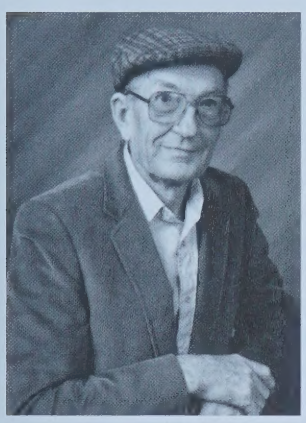
Dale married Thelma Johnson, who was raised near Wildwood, Alberta. They moved to Prince George, B.C. shortly after they were married. They have two boys. Dale runs equipment cutting trees in the logging industry. Thelma joined the work force

in 1992, working in an Unemployment Insurance office.

Brenda married Robin Gray. They have raised their two boys here in Drayton. Robin works on oil rigs as a push and a consultant. Robin is the son of Rex & Florence Gray, who came to Drayton in 1956. Rex is self employed doing oil field welding.

Robert & Isabel sold their home quarter in 1975 and started over. They moved to the bottom quarter into a new double-wide. Isabel was diagnosed with breast cancer and soon after passed away – April, 1979. She had 13 grandchildren.

Robert quit his job with the town in 1980. He was remarried in 1983 to Valinda, who had two children of her own.



Robert Johnson

This family faced a terrible tragedy in December of 1989, when Myrtle & Burton's 23 year old daughter, Cindy, and her two children were killed by their father, Cindy's husband, who then hung himself in their home in Drayton Valley.

Robert & Valinda are still on the farm. They have some cows and some quarter horses. Robert has nine great-grandchildren; four of them growing up in Drayton Valley the fifth generation of Johnson's to live in this town.

RUTH JONZON

Our parents, Mr. and Mrs. Muritz Jonzon, immigrated to Canada in 1911 from Stockholm, Sweden by sail boat. They arrived in Edmonton in 1912, and then moved to the homestead in Drayton Valley in 1913. Dad had built a two-room log house from trees he cut down and hewed by hand. The roof was made of sod and covered with birch bark. The land was known as Jonzon's rock pile. It was hard work to clear and pick all the rocks!

Back row L-R, Sven, Elizabeth, Eric, Lenora. Second row L-R, Nellie, Magdalene, Muritz and Ruth Jonzon

There are only two of us left now. Lenora lives in Edmonton. She was born in 1916 and I, Ruth, live in Vernon B.C. I was born in 1921. The deceased are: Father Muritz born 1871-1948; Mother Magdelene 1886-1963; brother Sven 1907-1997; sister Lizzie 1915-1997; sister Nellie 1926-1941 and brother Eric January 6, 2001.

My memories in the Valley date from 1927 when I started school until I got married in 1936. Our parents were very self-sufficient from growing their own wheat for flour, to oats and hay for the horses and cattle (they had oxen to begin with). In the summer they grazed on the open range. We also had six workhorses and a pleasure team. Also five or six milk cows. We kids would go round them up every day after school, walking many miles in the process. We separated the cream and made butter. We always got first grade for it. The cream had to be kept down the well. If any was spilled I had to climb down the well and bail the cream out until the water was clear again. The money we received for the cream and butter bought our yearly supply of 100 lbs. of brown and white sugar, baking powder, salt, tea, navy beans, Rogers's syrup, and some spices. We were quite self- sufficient. We never ate beef; but sold it, and lived on wild game and one pig a year. From the pig we smoked our own bacon and ham. Eric was the hunter in the family. He also did most of the ice fishing in Chip Lake and the North Saskatchewan River. We had lots of chickens and eggs and a great big garden. We would pick all kinds of wild berries. Mother would can at least a hundred quarts of blue berries a year alone, plus raspberries, strawberries and saskatoons. High bush and moss cranberries were made into pancake syrup by the gallon. We always had a great big jar of sauerkraut in the back porch. I don't ever recall being cold or hungry. Mom also canned chicken and wild meat. Our holiday for the year was going to the berry patch across the Pembina River for a week to pick blueberries and cranberries west of Rocky Rapids. We camped out for a week in tents. There would be at least ten families and we would have to ford the river in our horse drawn wagons. One year the river was really high. It was odd for that time of year (the end of August) and Mom decided we better go home before it gets any higher. So we hitched up our wagon and headed home. Mom put the seats on top

of our double wagon box and she stood on top of the seat! We kids were very frightened! When we got half way across the river the horses were swimming and the wagon was floating downstream. There was a very steep bank on the other side that the horse needed to get up. Mother was shouting and slapping the reins and the horses just leaped up the steep bank! To this day I don't know how they did it! If the horses had lost their footing or fell we would have been gone, as none of us could swim. Now that's scary!

Our mom and dad were always very happy when the last of the garden would be stored in the cellar. We lived in the log house for 22 years. We built a new house in the early 30's, with a full basement, main floor, kitchen, dining room, sewing room, and front room with three bedrooms upstairs and an area for a bathroom with a nice veranda at the front door. There was a well under the house connected to the kitchen with a hand pump – so we had running water you might say. My sister in law, Irene Hystad, thought we must be rich when they moved from Saskatchewan and saw what a nice house we had. That was during the dirty thirties. There were people working for a dollar a day. You could buy a full course meal, dessert, and coffee for 25 cents.

The Jonzon family home

It was around 1926 or 27 that Eric, Lenora and I had a trap line to catch rabbits. Eric would skin them while my sister and I would put them on stretchers to dry. We sold them for three to five cents apiece. With the proceeds, we bought our parents a set of bone china from England for Christmas. Eric remembers the set cost about forty dollars! Our mother was very excited when she was unpacking it until she found a cup and saucer, and then she had to quit to make a cup of tea. I still have the gravy boat from the set.

My Christmas memories of Drayton Valley begin with the school concert. We had a one room school with a teacher and thirty-four students from grades one to eight. We would start practicing early in the school year, as the concert was two hours long. We always began with the nativity story and there could be as least three other plays. I remember the one with angels, as I was one. My mother sewed angel dresses out of cheesecloth and trimmed them in tinsel. All the students would sing Christmas carols and when we sang Jingle Bells there were sleigh bells to ring. Some students recited poetry and others played instruments. At the end of the concert we had a dance. Sven and Eric played the violin and banjo. Santa would arrive later and hand out gifts of an apple, orange, a handful of nuts, and a small gift. We were all so excited! A few days before Christmas the kids in our family would walk for miles in the snow to find a Christmas tree. Then we'd tie a rope to it and drag it home to decorate it with homemade decorations, clip on candles, and gingerbread men. Then we would go to our neighbor's for lutefisk dinner and during the evening the kids would play games. For Christmas, we would have a box of apples, oranges, and a sack of figs. Christmas Day was a family time and during the holidays neighbors would visit neighbors. A fun time! Our Christmas presents were things like homemade underwear that reached to our knees, a petticoat, home knit mittens, (we had a knitting machine), and sometimes a game. One year I remember getting a little set of glass dishes. I thought they were real china.

We were always allowed to have our friends stay over, or we stayed at their place. To this day I'm still in contact with my school friends that stayed. Speaking of friendship, all our neighbors would help each other out at threshing or haying time (pulling together). Even when Sammy Dunn sheared his sheep in the spring they would come and help, kids too. He or some of the ladies would make mutton stew. We were like one big happy family! Sammy was a bachelor. I have a picture of him with some of the women that did the cooking. I always hated the smell of that stew!

Sven and Eric set up a phone system that used the barbwire fences to get from one house to the other. Sven said it worked fine except when it rained. It was eventually taken over by Bell Telephone. They also built a homemade washing machine and a device to easily and quickly slice up cabbage for sauerkraut. They also built our new home I talked about earlier. As well, they were enthusiastic musicians and played for most of the dances along with Clarence Sjerdal, Arvid Erickson and a few others. Eric also had one of the first vehicles in the Valley. I think it was a model T made into

a pickup. It was the ambulance for quite a few years. When he first got it mother insisted on driving it and us kids were hanging on the sides of it. She drove through the gate by our house shouting "Whoa! Whoa!" as if it would stop like her team of horses! Mother was also the mid-wife in the Valley for many years.

What is left of Eric Jonzon's Model T

To end my memories of those years, I married Perry Hystad Oct. 19, 1936. We raised four sons and one daughter. Harold the oldest lives in Valemount, B.C. Peter lives in Vernon, B.C. with me, Lawrence in Vernon, Ken in Armstrong, B.C. and the youngest, Joyce, lives in Vernon also. We first moved to Buck Creek where the Hystad Bros. had set up a sawmill (Perry, Andrew and Bjarnie). From there we moved to Grande Prairie, and then to Valemount, B.C. They were in the sawmill business for 30 years until they sold out in 1964, and we moved to Vernon. Perry passed away on July 4, 1994, after a long and happy retirement. We have 11 grandchildren, and so far 12 great grandchildren. I am still active and enjoy life greatly.

CONSTANCE ROBERTA JONES

Written by Mrs. E. Pickup

Constance Roberta Jones was born in Provost, Alberta. In her early years she lived in Macklin, Saskatchewan and in Hughenden, Alberta. She entered her first year of school in Rocky Rapids.

At the age of eight, she joined the Pickup family. She continued her schooling and graduated from Frank Maddock High School.

She left Drayton Valley to work for AGT for serveral years and worked at the University book store, then at Manufacturers Life Insurance, Archbishop Jordon High School in Sherwood Park, Cloverbar Foundation Lodge for five years. She was a dispatcher for the Sherwood Park Fire Department, from there she worked in an Art and Framing Gallery, later to open her own Custom Framing business. Connie continued to further her education by taking numerous courses at Alberta Vocational College and at NAIT.

Connie married Paul Hagel of Estevan, Saskatchewan. They have two children, a son Jarret and daughter Renate. The Hagels live on an acreage about a mile south of Ardrossan, Alberta.

DR. ARTHUR JORGENSEN

In late August of 1954, I arrived in Drayton Valley to assume the position of vice principal of the then Drayton Valley School.

Ivy Herndon and Art Jorgensen

This time was the beginning of the oil boom in Drayton Valley, therefore finding a place to live was practically impossible. As a result I had to take up residence in the school's staff-room, using the students' washroom, and cooking on a hot plate. A cot was brought in for me to sleep on. Students would often come to my room for help with assignments.

The summer of 1954 was very wet, and the streets of Drayton Valley were the worst for wear. I remember driving into a hole in front of Blocks' Store, and the car being completely covered in mud and water.

After a day's work I would go to the post office for my mail and then to Blocks' Store to shop for groceries. Since I had no fridge I had to grocery shop daily. Starting in November I became very perplexed, because it appeared to me that the same girl was working in the post office and in the store. It took several of these trips until I realized the girls were twins. I became friendly with the girl in the store. Her father also worked there. Her younger sisters were in my classes. One day her father invited the teacher down for supper, and I was glad to accept. The standing joke in the family was that they invited the teacher for supper and never got rid of him. The girl in the store, Ivy Herndon, became my wife on Aug. 16, 1955.

Art and Ivy Jorgenson

We lived in a teacherage for the school from 1955-56, after which we moved to Bonnyville.

In February of 1955 I became quite ill. Mrs. Edith Deby who was one of the teachers with whom I had become very friendly, felt sorry for me and invited me to her home for the duration of my illness. She and her husband generously gave their room to me. To this day Edith remains a very dear friend.

I look back with fondness of the many great students I had the pleasure of teaching.

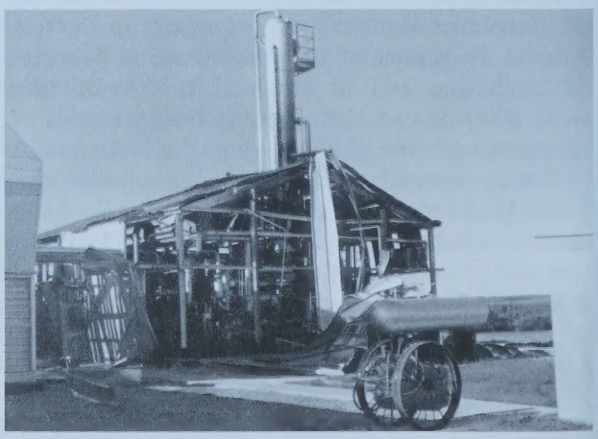
FRED AND ALICE KAARSEMAKER

Fred and Alice Kaarsemaker left The Netherlands in June, 1957, to emigrate to Alberta, Canada, with 3 children. They temporarily settled in Edmonton, where Fred found employment with different companies, until the opportunity came to join Goliad Ltd. in Drayton Valley. Goliad was a gas-processing company, under contract with all the oil-producing companies, to process and clean all the gas, that, until that time, had been burned as waste. This process produced propane, butane and natural gas, which was shipped to Edmonton and even as far as California.

Top – Fred, Marian, Bottom, Ann, Neil, Alice, Fred Jr. Kaarsemaker

Fred started in Drayton Valley on July 2, 1958. Accommodations were not too plentiful, so after staying in the D.V. Hotel for a few weeks, he moved , with a colleague, into the cabin court, just to the West of the old hotel, until the houses that the company provided, were ready for occupation.

So, in the beginning of October, 1958, Alice and the now 4 children, (Neil, the youngest had been born in Edmonton in June, 1958) joined Fred in the new home, just South of Drayton Valley, at Goliad's site #3, ¼ mile South from the present Auction Market. This site is now completely gone. The only mark remaining is now the empty pumphouse.



Goliad Site 3 Explosion, August 15, 1962

The worst day in the history of site #3 was August 12, 1962, when an explosion at 5:00 O'Clock in the morning, destroyed most of the process building. There was severe damage to the building and equipment, but thanks to the early time of the explosion, noone was at the station, so nobody got hurt.

Especially during the early years, many improvements and developments took place. In the down-town area, side walks were poured, streets paved and new houses and stores built. After that, a person didn't need rubber boots (Drayton Oxfords!) when going to town to shop or to have a meal.

The family was very happy in their new and comfortable home. The 2 oldest children, Marian and Fred Jr. went to school on the schoolbus, also a new experience. Louise and Neil stayed at home for a few more years.

The family joined the United Church, to have a spiritual home and also in an effort to get to know more people and befriend them. The memories of those years of church participation and friendships are still good ones. Drayton Valley was a good place to live and raise a family. The children were happy there and admit now, that Drayton Valley was a good place to grow up. Besides church activities, Fred joined the Lions Club. During his years with the Lions, the Club built first a playground, close to the old hospital site. Also the development of the West Valley Park, was a great community booster, with the help from companies and individuals from the community. Fred served as president of the local club in 1967, when the Park was officially opened.

At home there was much work to be done, besides the many hours spent at the station. Raising a family and looking after a large flower garden and even larger vegetable garden.

Alice loved to sing, she therefore joined the church choir, taught Sunday school, joined the community choir, under the leadership of Dr. H. MacLure. They sang Christmas and Easter cantatas, performing them in different churches.

The children were all involved in school and community activities during their school years. Marian worked on the yearbook committee and during the summers worked first as a wading pool supervisor and later as a life guard in the new swimming pool. Fred Jr. joined air-cadets and the local gun club. He also had an after school job with the old Marshall Wells store, then located next to the theatre. Anna was very involved with High School basket ball and worked several summers as life guard in the swimming pool. Both Marian and Anna participated in the swimclub "Neptunes", thanks to the leadership of Fred DeGeest, Peter Castaign and later Al McKillop. Neil preferred playing hockey and was involved with student union activities. He also had a part time job as "bus-boy" at the newly build "West Wind Hotel". All the children enjoyed the ski hill, which was developed by local volunteers.

L to R, Top – Marian Willock, Fred Jr. Kaarsemaker, Anna Skaworodk, Neil Kaarsemaker, Bottom – Alice and Fred Kaarsemaker

In 1981 Fred and Alice left Drayton Valley, after the 4 children were settled and married. They went into volunteer work in different places. In March of 1988 they returned to Alberta and settled in Edmonton, to be close to their children and 13 grandchildren. They are still enjoying their retirement years.

GRAHAM AND SUSAN KATHOL

Graham Kathol was born in 1964, in Red Deer, Alberta, and raised on a farm near Sylvan Lake. Susan (Hermus) Kathol was born in Stettler and raised on a farm near Big Valley. We met while attending Olds College and were married in 1986. We worked in Red Deer for a few years, but wanted to farm. In 1989 we bought the farm near Sylvan Lake. We had a hog operation and raised purebred cows. Daughter Alyssa (1991), son Anthony (1992) and daughter Amariah (1995) were born in Red Deer.

We decided we needed more room, and, since Sylvan Lake was growing so fast we weren't permitted to expand our hog operation or afford more farmland, we needed a new home. Together with Graham's parents we purchased the ranch from Gordon and Josie Davidson and their son Scott and Shirley. Daughter Alanna was born in Drayton Valley in 1999. Aricka was born January 25, 2001. We own and operate Kathol Simmental Ranch on SE 16-49-6 W5.

HUGH AND ELSIE KAPTEYN

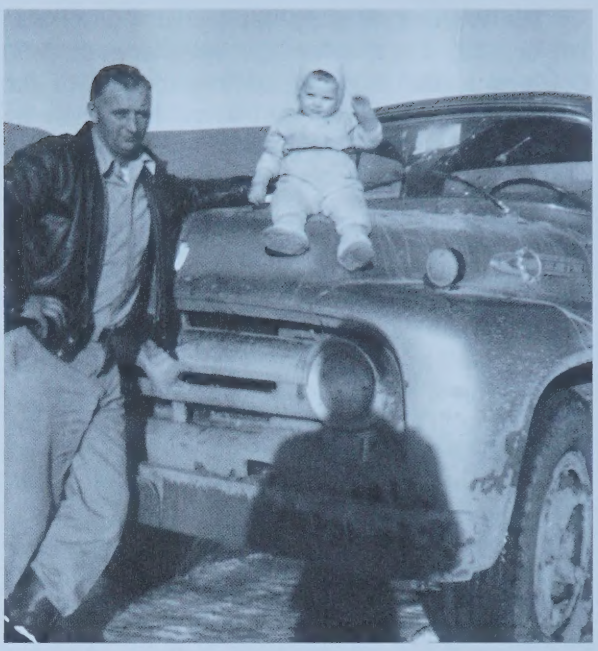
Written by Elsie and Hugh Kapteyn

Hugh Kapteyn was born in Berkinville, Holland. He immigrated to Canada in 1948 along with his parents, 1 sister and 2 brothers. They joined their uncle who owned a hotel at Mercoal, Alberta. (Hugh went to work as a truck driver, hauling heavy equipment in the oilfield for Hislop Construction at Leduc.) My first job was at Canada Packers in Edmonton. Eventually there was a lay off at Canada Packers so I went to visit my friend Lil Palmer in Leduc whose husband, Jim, was employed with Hislop Construction. Elsie (Kozma) Kapteyn was born and raised on a farm 11 miles north of Waskatenau, Alberta.

Ralph, Raymond and Elsie Kapteyn

I, Elsie took a job as a waitress in the newly built Leduc Hotel after the old one was destroyed by fire in 1951. I met Hugh, my husband, through my friends, the Palmers. Hugh and Elsie were married in Edmonton at the United Church on November 27, 1952.

Hugh and Elsie Kapteyn first visited Drayton Valley in the year of 1952 when Hugh had to deliver a cat and some oilfield equipment to Drayton



Hugh and Ralph Kapteyn

Valley on a lowboy. I went along with him for the ride. The main road to Drayton Valley from highway 16 was 1 mile east of the existing highway 22. I thought we would never make it, the road was so bad. I think it had no gravel on it. (We purchased a small house trailer to take with us each time we moved from job to job, town to town.)

Ralph and Glenyse Duke

We were stationed in Vegreville for the summer so I took a job in the hotel restaurant as a waitress for the rest of the summer. After that we moved to Mannville, Viking, Drumheller, Stettler, Olds, Ponoka and back to Edmonton where we parked our trailer at the Skyline Trailer Park. Hugh's work was mostly at Valleyview, Peace River, Whitecourt, etc. I stayed in Edmonton and took a job at the Airlines Hotel as a waitress in the dining room.

After that we purchased our own gravel truck. The first job was at Peers, Alberta. We eventually moved to Drayton Valley to work for P.R.D. Construction hauling gravel. I should say that before we moved back to Drayton Valley we purchased a larger house trailer about 45' long and 8' wide. We had it parked at the Elizabeth cabins and trailer park, the name changed to Drayton Valley cabins & trailer park. We all shared the same showers, washrooms and laundry room, so it didn't take long to get to know everyone and the rest of the town as there was not that much of it.

In 1956 there was no hospital in Drayton Valley. I was expecting our first child. I travelled back and forth on the Greyhound bus to Edmonton for my monthly checkup at the Baker Clinic. On one occasion as I was returning after my checkup, the bus was loaded and there was this lady and her grandson sitting with me. She informed me that she was from Wetaskiwin and that she was coming to join her husband in Violet Grove, where he was operating a bulk gas station. I told her my husband deals with him. She wanted to know where the nearest hospital was as she was a nurse and would like to get a job. I informed her about the hospital in Drayton Valley they were building and is almost completed. The next time we went to fill up our gasdrums I informed her that they are now taking in applications for hospital staff, she went in to put her application in and got the matrons job. Her name was Mrs. Yahnke.

Our first son Ralph was born at the Royal Alec. hospital in Edmonton, December 2, 1956. The Drayton Valley hospital was not open yet. Our second son, Raymond was born in the new, (old) Drayton Valley hospital on September 24, 1959. I recall when I brought him home from the hospital, everyone in the trailer court was talking about this new singer who became famous, which was Elvis Presley. I always told my son Ray that he was born when Elvis became famous.

In the year of 1961 we had the opportunity to take up farming. We purchased the property of Fred Valaschuk, 14 miles north and 1 mile east of Drayton Valley. We farmed there until our retirement in 1987. I'll always remember that we had our house built in Drayton Valley the fall after the tornado struck in Edmonton and the Sherwood Park Freeway.

Our son Ralph resides on the family farm along with his wife Irene and his two children Andrew and Elizabeth. Elsie passed away March 18, 2001

GEORGE AND EDNA KELLY

Submitted by Norm Kelly

George and Edna Kelly were both born in Ontario. They settled in Gull Lake, Saskatchewan and started to raise a family. Things were very tough at times. In July 1931, they moved from Gull Lake to Rocky Rapids. They had to wait 3 years before getting their own homestead. In July 1943, they moved to Round Valley. Everyone who knew Mother called her Gramma Kelly. There was 16 children (one set of twins), in all, born to George and Edna but there were never more than 13 living at one time.

GRANT AND RITA KENWORTHY

Written by Rita Kenworthy

Grant and Rita Kenworthy moved to Drayton Valley to stay in 1963. Grant was working for Peter Bawden Drilling and had worked in the area off and on several times before. They were married in 1957 and followed Bawden Drilling rigs around the area including Breton, Buck Creek, Cynthia and Lodgepole. They lived in trailer courts until they built a house at 4737-47 St. Drayton Valley. In 1983 they moved to an acreage west of town at NE quarter, Block 1, Lot 3 Rge. 8, Twp. 49, Section 1, West 5.

Grant worked for Great Plains which became Norcen Energy Resources, starting in 1964 and continued for 22 years until 1986 when he retired. Rita worked for the Bay, which later became Northern Stores, for 17 years. The store closed in 1992.

Grant and Rita have 4 sons. Harvey and Brian were born before they moved here to stay, but Rick and Steven were born in the Drayton Valley hospital. The boys all took their schooling here. Harvey is married to Dorraine Plamondon and they have two daughters, Tanya and Andrea. They now live in Coquitlam, B.C. Harvey works for Boiler Inspection and Insurance as manager in Vancouver.

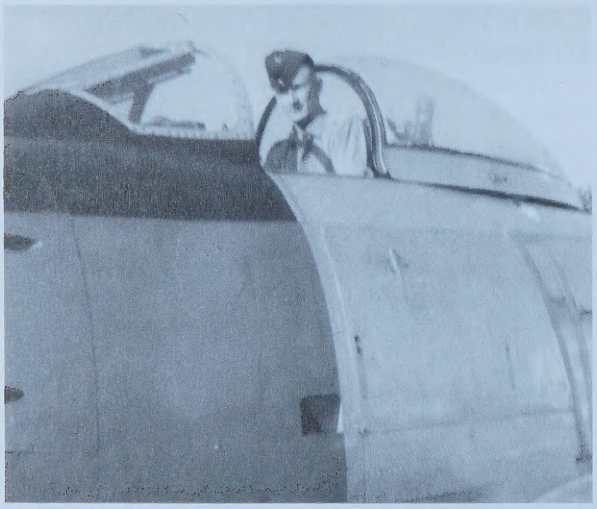
Brian is married to Maxine Lambert and they live in Victoria, B.C. They have 2 sons, Mitchell and Tyler. Brian works for Pangaea Systems Inc. in Victoria.

Rick is married to Cheryl Vatter and they live in Hinton, Alberta. They have two daughters named Vicki and Katie. Rick works for Cardinal River Coal at Cadomin.

Steven lives in the Crowsnest Pass and is editor of the Pass Promoter newspaper.

ROBERT AND CHRIS KITCHING

Robert was born in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, the oldest of four children raised on his dad's farm at Paradise Valley, Alberta. After High School he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. After graduating from the RCAF Electronics School, he was posted to the Electronic Warfare Squadron stationed at Air Defence Command Headquarters, RCAF Station St Hubert, Quebec. The work involved servicing and operating electronic countermeasures equipment carried in converted CF100 fighters and the old C119 Packets(Flying Boxcars). His work with this squadron took him all over North America and trips to western Europe. At that time, the focus of the Canadian military was on Arctic sovereignty, thus extensive operations were flown over the Arctic operating out of Goose Bay in northern Labrador.



Robert Kitching R.C.A.F. St. Hurbert, 1961

He met Christianne Drohomirecki while finishing airborne school in RCAF Station Borden in Ontario. Christianne, at the time, worked for Boosey and Hawks, a musical instrument distributor in Toronto. They were married on Feb. 8, 1964. Christianne was born in Freiburg, Germany and immigrated from Belgium to Toronto, Ontario, with her parents in 1951, leaving her sister behind in the Ukraine, then Russia. At the height of the Cold War in 1964, with a wife who had a German swastika on her birth certificate, and a sister-in-law living in Russia, what kind of problems do you think it caused a young airman with top secret clearance working in the RCAF's most secret and sensitive squadron? They got an extra two week honeymoon, gratis of the Canadian Government while that one was sorted out. After their marriage, Christianne worked for United Aircraft in Longueil, Quebec.

Their first son, Mahlon, was born in Montreal. Two years later his RCAF term was up and Robert moved his family to Edmonton to work in the engineering dept. of Alberta Government Telephones. The work consisted of designing Telemetry and Communications Systems for the Department of National Defence. In 1966 Andy was born followed by Paula in 1968.

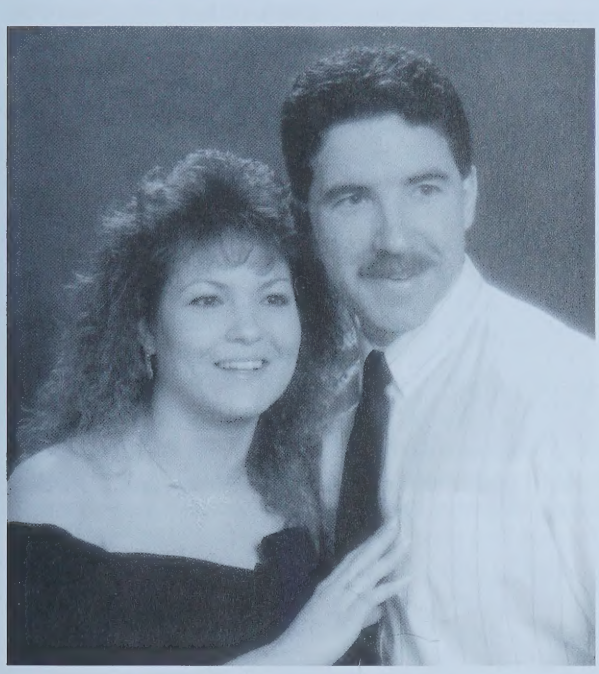
Andy, Paul, Robert, Chris and Mahlon Kitching

With a growing family, a change of pace was needed, so Robert and Chris, with their children, moved from Edmonton to Drayton Valley in September of 1977. Robert worked for the telephone company as the manager for the Drayton Valley district.

In spring of 1980, they were successful in getting a homestead west of the Pembina river. The first thing they did was buy an old DS IH cat (circa 1929-31, which is still running today), from Arvet Erickson to clear the bush. By that fall they had a building site cleared and they moved onto the homestead where they presently live today. The family has lots of memories of packing water up from the creek before they got a well in, rising creeks and mud roads keeping the kids from school, and bears in the porch. In the fall of 1980, Robert's father Mahlon, turned over his farm in Paradise Valley to his youngest son Douglas, and moved out to Drayton Valley onto the homestead. He lived with Robert and Chris until, after a brief stint at the Senior Citizens Lodge, his death in 1989.

Basketball has been a lifetime passion for Robert. He first started playing in high school, where he got his first exposure to coaching with the

junior school boys team. The air force brought together some excellent talent and he wound up playing national championships. During his time in Edmonton he was involved in coaching youth groups and took up refereeing professionally. After moving to Drayton Valley he continued refereeing and was involved in coaching the Drayton Valley women's team, and assisting with the Frank Maddock high school teams.



Joanne and Mahlon Kitching

Derrick and Dalton Kitching

The family was actively involved with the Easyford community, 4H Horse and Beef clubs, sandwiched between proving up on the homestead. They remain active in the Rural Crime Watch, the Drayton Valley and District Agricultural Society, and, Chris's passion, the Drayton Valley Quilting Club.

Mahlon married Joanne Hruschak in 1994. They have two boys, Derrick and Dalton. They live on an acreage west of the Pembina River. Mahlon is a heavy duty mechanic working for Dial Oilfield in Drayton Valley.

Andy graduated from Olds Agricultural College in 1986, and has his own farm and pipefitting contracting company.

Paula graduated from Olds Agricultural College in 1988, married Alan Bordeleau from Richmond, BC in 1989. They have two boys, Reed, and Coleman. They live in the Breton area where Alan manages a large ranch and Paula raises and trains horses.

L to R, Coleman, Paula, and Reed Bordeleau

Over the years, the farming activity, starting with full blood cattle, changed to grains and forages as more land was cleared. Robert retired from the telephone company in 1993, and began full time producing and selling forages. They spend a good part of the summer guiding and taking horse pack trips in the mountains.

ANDREW AND LOVETTA KJORLIEN

By Andrew Kjorlien

I was born in Camrose, Alberta, and moved with my parents to the Rocky Rapids district in November, 1939. I grew up on the family farm SW¼ 27-49-7 W5M. I attended the Rocky Rapids School which was located ¼ mile east of the Rocky Rapids Store. The school was a one room structure. There were approximately 40 students in the classroom

grades 1 to 8. When I left school, I worked in sawmills in Alberta and BC. I also worked on construction jobs operating heavy equipment. In the early days of the oil boom I worked on a drilling rig for a time. In the spring of 1956, I found employment with Socony Mobil, today the company is known as Mobil Oil Canada Ltd. During my years with Mobil, I worked in field maintenance, was a Battery Operator, Plant Operator, Wireline Operator, and Instrumentation & Production Foreman. In November, 1989, I took early retirement. After several months of retirement I was hired to drive a school bus on a part time basis. This soon became a full time job, which lasted six years.

In February, 1971, I married Lovetta Sorochen (Shopik). We have a family of two children – Brian and Sharon. Brian took his education in Edmonton and graduated from NAIT as a boilermaker and worked throughout Alberta. Brian married Allison Winchester and they have one son, Ian, and live in Edmonton. Sharon continued her education in Drayton Valley and graduated from Frank Maddock

Rocky Rapids School, 1946

L to R, Brad Wilkinson, Sharon Wilkinson, Lovetta Kjorlien, Andrew Kjorlien, Brian Sasochan

Rocky Rapids School class of 1946, grades one to eight, teacher Mr. William Wolodko. Front Row – Mr. Wolodko's son, Second Row – L to R, Annie Bray, Dorothy Turnbad, Alice Combs, Third Row – Dennis Bray, Flody Sckedo, Jim Turnbull, Unknown, Bill Glass, Myrna Combs, Melvin Bray. Fourth Row – L to R, Lyla Combs, Frank Sckedo, Twyla Combs, Autry Combs, Peggy Stewart, George Sundin, Art Turbull, ??, Doreen Stewart. Fifth row – L to R, Unknown, Eileen Byers, Marian Combs, Eric Richert, Lillian Combs, Jim Sundin, Unknown, Lyle Combs, David Bray, Eugene Bray, Lorne Byers

High School. She then took employment with Canada Post in Edmonton. Sharon married Brad Wilkinson of Edmonton and they make their home in Edmonton.

Lovetta grew up on the family farm at Wostok, Alberta and attended the Chernowci School and graduated from the Andrew High School, and later graduated from the McTavish Business College in Edmonton. Lovetta worked in various business offices, including the CN Telegraphs, the Edmonton City Police, the RCMP and the Royal Alexandra Hospital. In 1971, Lovetta was employed by the County of Parkland as office manager in Drayton Valley. In 1988 when the MD of Brazeau was formed, Lovetta took early retirement.

One of our challenging experiences was in 1980 when we were the only two chaperones for 10 Frank Maddock High School students with our daughter Sharon and 4 Forestburg High School students on a two week Education Tour of Europe. The tour was very successful and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Our hobbies include camping with our recreation vehicle. We enjoy fishing, gardening, reading and playing cards. I like golfing and Lovetta enjoys crocheting and collecting souvenirs from various countries we visited. Another hobby is traveling and visiting friends and relatives in Canada and abroad. We toured Europe a couple of times, England, Scotland, the Scandinavian countries, Hawaii, Alaska, Yukon, Eastern Canada and parts of the USA.

We both are active members of the All Saint's Anglican Church and the Drayton Valley Seniors Club. I'm an active member of the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks, and Lovetta is an active member of the Order of the Royal Purple, Oil Wives Club and is a Life member of the Anglican Church Women.

We continue to make our home in Drayton Valley.

TORSTEIN (TOM) AND MARTHA KJORLIEN

By Andrew Kjorlien

Tom Kjorlien grew up on a farm at Vang Valdies, Norway. He attended a small public school until he reached the age of 15 years. He then found employment and brought his earnings home to assist his parents and younger brothers and sisters. At the age of 18 years he was called to serve in the army for one year. In April, 1929, he married Martha Boe of Vestre Slidre, Norway. Their first child Inga was born in 1930. Tom had read and heard of the opportunities in Canada, so in the summer of 1930, Tom and brother Knut, left Norway for Canada. They sailed a number of days on the Atlantic Ocean before arriving at Halifax, Nova Scotia. They were held over in Halifax for a few days, then they boarded the train heading west to Alberta, finally arriving at Camrose. Tom found work on farms and various other jobs. Eventually he was able to save enough money to send for his wife Martha and daughter Inga. Tom and Martha worked on a dairy farm on a share basis for several years. Then Tom found employment with the CPR.

In 1934, their first son Andrew was born and in 1936 their second son Leonard was born. Tom and Martha met William and Alma Sjerdal who lived at Camrose, and they soon learned that the Sjerdals had a farm for sale at Rocky Rapids. Tom traveled to Rocky Rapids to view this farm, and when he returned to Camrose, Tom and Martha decided to purchase this farm. In November 1939, they moved with their daughter and two sons to Rocky Rapids. Their journey via Edmonton, Entwistle to Rocky Rapids took many hours with their 1927 Chevrolet car. There were no short cuts in those days. Their household goods and one Jersey calf arrived the same evening. The farm was located at SW¼ 27-49-7 W5. Several years later they purchased the adjoining quarter section of land from Carl Gulbrandson SE 27-49-7 W5.

Tom Kjorlien family and several neighbors sawing wood for the winter

When Tom, Martha and family arrived at their new home, the first family they met were Carl and Rachael Anderson and boys Albert and Arnold. The Community Hall known as the Norman Hall was located on the southwest corner of their farm. Later the community sold the Hall to Maurice McCullagh. He moved it to his farm north of the Rocky Rapids store.

Tom seeded his first cop in the spring of 1940. More land had to be cleared, brushing was done by hand. Breaking of the land was done with an old tractor and a breaking plow. In July, 1940, their third son Melvin was born. There were many sawmills in

the area in those days, so in the winter months Tom worked at one of these sawmills, leaving Martha and the children attending the farm with cows, pigs, and chickens. The children attended the Rocky Rapids School, which was located a half mile east of the Rocky Rapids Store. Entertainment was visiting neighbors, school concerts, dances and a community picnic. Evenings at home you could find Tom playing his violin or the accordion, and Martha would be knitting or doing other needlework such as making tablecloths.

Back Row – L to R, Inga Andrew, Leonard, Front – Tom, Melvin, Martha Kjorlein

L to R, Leonard, Melvin, Andrew, Front Row, L to R, Tom, Inga, Martha Kjorlein

During the 1940's, there were several crop failures due to severe hailstorms. In 1954, Tom discontinued farming and rented his land. He found employment with Hystad Bros. Lumber Co. at Valemount, BC. He worked there until his retirement. Tom and Martha sold their farm in 1967 and purchased a home in Drayton Valley.

During their marriage, Tom and Martha visited their relatives in Norway on numerous occasions. In April, 1979, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Tom passed away in November of 1979, after a lengthy illness. Martha sold the home and moved to the Wishing Well Senior Apartment for several years. In 1985, she moved to the Shangri-la Lodge where she enjoyed working with crafts and socializing with other members in the lodge. Their son, Melvin, passed away at Sparwood, BC, in November 1983. Martha passed away in November, 1985. Their daughter Inga and family live in the Rocky Rapids and Drayton Valley area. Their son Andrew and wife Lovetta live in Drayton Valley, and their family live in Edmonton. Leonard and his wife Dexter and family live in Rocky Mountain House and Calgary. Their daughter-in-law Flora and family live in Calgary and Sparwood BC. Their son-in-law, Arthur Frost, passed away in October, 1996.

50th Wedding Anniversary of Tom and Martha Kjorlien and all their family

DENNIS AND MAUREEN KNELLER

Written by Maureen Kneller

The Kneller family moved to Drayton Valley at the end of February, 1984. Dennis transferred here from Fox Creek, Alberta with Dome Petroleum employed at newly constructed gas plant at West Pembina, 90 km from Drayton Valley as maintenance foreman.

Dennis and Maureens children, Dion and Heidi

received their formal education in Drayton Valley. Dion graduated from Frank Maddock High School in June, 1996 Heidi graduated from Frank Maddock High School in June 1998. Dion is attending NAIT in Business Administration Program with a major in Marketing. Heidi was accepted at Red Deer College for fall of 1998 in Pharmacy Technician Program.

Maureen is currently employed part-time with Wild Rose School Division as Library Assistant, at Eldorado Elementary School.

Our interests include: Dennis – woodworking, stained glass, curling, golf; Maureen – curling, walking, volunteering; Dion – curling, mountain-biking, golf, skiing, slow-pitch; Heidi – curling, rhythmic gymnastics, jazz, piano. The family are members of All Saints Anglican Church – oldest church in town.

As a family we have found Drayton Valley to be a caring, well equipped, progressive community. Dion was always intrigued with machines of any type, watching snow-removal equipment, front-end loaders with endless fascination. Helicopters were a rarity in this community especially when he was younger, but one summer day when he and a friend heard one overhead, they raced off to the heli-pad behind the Westwinds Hotel to watch it land.

When the pilot spotted two young lads watching his every move, he called them over and struck up a conversation. Upon learning of their interest in his craft, he asked if either wanted to experience a helicopter flight first-hand. Dion immediately volunteered! While his stunned friend stood watching, Dion climbed aboard and up into the air they rose, making a pass over the south end of town before landing back where they started. One hero pilot and one shocked mother upon hearing of the incident, especially since she'd heard the helicopter when it was air-born; never-dreaming her son was actually aboard, and one ecstatic young boy, with the words, "Beam me up, Scotty", forever etched in his memory.

WALTER AND ELAINE KOBERNICK

Written by Elaine Kobernick

My first trip to Drayton Valley was in mid August, 1958. There was an ad in the Edmonton Journal saying Drayton Valley required several teachers so I phoned the superintendent, who was Fred Hannochko, and was hired by phone. I didn't have to write a formal application, didn't have to go for an interview, and never even signed a contract. The purpose of this first trip was to meet the principal, see the school, find a place to live, and to find out what grades I was assigned to teach in September, 1958.

Drayton Valley was a far different sight then from what it is forty years later. The old hospital was just being built, there was just an outdoor skating rink, the road from Drayton Valley to Alsike corner was in the process of being built, the bridge across the North Saskatchewan River had just been opened that summer, and there were no paved streets in the town. We had some of the biggest holes on the streets and lots of lovely mud! The Galaxy Apartments were the nicest buildings for living accommodations in town. People lived in 8x12 trailers, skid shacks, grainaries, mobile trailers-whatever could be pulled into town. As the oil boom blossomed, the coal mines began closing in the Coal Branch. Many homes were moved into Dayton Valley from the Coal Branch (Luscar, Mercoal, Cadomin, Robb area).

The school population in Drayton Valley exploded after oil was discovered in the area in December, 1953. Many people moved into the area to work in the oil industry, and some of the surrounding one room schools were being closed. Not only were we short of teachers in Drayton Valley, we were desperately short of classroom space in 1958. The only school in town was in the yard where Eldorado still stands, with the students from grade 1 to 12. There were five or six portables and about the same number of old one room schools in the school yard. Besides these, there were classes in the gymnasium, two in the scout hall, and several in church basements. Wherever there was a space for 35 students, that's where a class was. Tom McManus was the principal for the high school, and John Gray assumed the principalship for the elementary part.

When school opened in 1958, I had 55 grade four students in one of the portables, while Emily Letwiniuk had about the same number of grade fours in one of the twelve classrooms that was the elementary section. The portables were not as fancy as they are today. They were similar to a one room school and were not attached to the main building. At recess time, my grade fours played softball west of the portable, and a grade eight class played football above them. To say we were crowded, is putting it mildly.

About the middle of October, we acquired another grade four teacher. The only space left to put another class was in the staffroom. That was the end of our staffroom. We met in the little General Office, which was also the secretary's office and the principal's office. My class size went down to 37, and that's where it stayed for the year. Our staff meetings were held in a classroom after school had been dismissed. We had no music room, no gymna-

sium for physical education, no library, no teacher aides, no preparation periods, no resource rooms or special education rooms, and no intercoms. Because we had no intercom for announcements, Mrs. Gray had a big green record book in which she wrote important messages, and the record book passed from room to room.

I taught grade four for six years. Then I was asked to teach a grade one class, which I agreed to. I taught grade one for 27 years, until I retired in June 1991. Over the years our class sizes got smaller. The year I retired I had 22 students, a big change from my first year. Prior to coming to Dayton Valley, I had taught in a one room country school, grades 1-9 for three years. During my 36 years of teaching I taught close to 1000 students.

In 1960, the original Frank Maddock High School (present day Howard Pickup School) was opened, so grades 7-12 were moved there and we were grades 1-6 at Eldorado. More relief came in 1963-64 when present day Evergreen was opened. Grades one and two and one grade three class were moved there. As the population increased in the high school, present day Evergreen became a junior high school and the elementary grades were moved back to Eldorado.

Elaine, Mike and Walter Kobernick

During the first five years that I was in Drayton Valley, my family and I lived in a 12x18 skid shack teacherage. There were eight of these teacherages in the yard and one central wash house. They were located where the Baptist Church is now. After that, the school board purchased half of the Galaxy apartments, which became the teacherages. My husband, Walter, was an automotive mechanic. He worked at Drayton Valley Motors (today Stetson Motor) which was owned by Red Fuhr, for about 12 years after we came to Drayton Valley. From then until 1972, he worked at various other garages in town. In 1972, Walter and Tom Cloke started operating the Gulf Service Station at the north end of town, where the present day Petro Canada is located. This continued until 1979, at which time Walter moved out to the farm we had purchased in 1968 and Tom remained at the service station.

While I was in Drayton Valley I worked for minor hockey for twelve years, first with the Drayton Valley Athletic Association, and then with the Drayton Valley Minor Hockey Association. During those years, our son Mike played hockey and was a referee. He was a member of three provincial team winners – the Burrows Motors Bantams, Rose's Well Service Midgets, and the Pembina Pipeline Juveniles. Mike still lives in Dayton Valley and continues to referee hockey. As well, he is active in other sports, and very active in maintaining sports facilities, especially slow pitch diamonds.

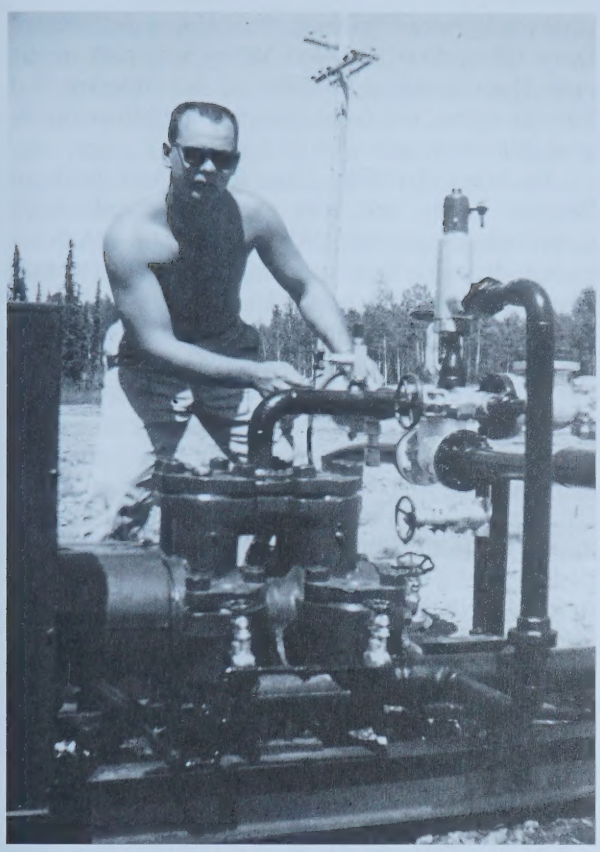
When I retired in 1991, I moved to the farm which my husband and I purchased. I enjoyed every year I lived in Drayton Valley and watched it grow and change for 33 years. I have many, many fond memories of my teaching days, and find it very difficult to drive past Eldorado School without wishing I was still there.

SAM AND JEANETTE KUZIO

The story begins on Oct 24. 1936, when Sam Kuzio was born in Thorsby, Alberta. His parents, Mike & Marie Kuzio, had farmed in that district for many years. Sam took his schooling in Dnister school, Sunnybrook and Thorsby. After that he worked with an electrician for awhile & then the oilfields beckoned.

In 1956, he began work with Pembina Pipeline in Buck Creek, and it was during this time that he met Jeanette Neitsch, a 15 yr. old high school girl, whom he would marry 3 years later.

Jeanette was born on June 21, 1941, in Thorsby, to parents Otto & Pearl Neitsch of St. Francis. Her parents were also farmers. There was only one sibling, a sister Debbie, born Oct. 8, 1954. Jeanette



Sam Kuzio at work for Pembina Pipeline

took her grades I to 9 at Rainier School, near the area where the Warburg Hutteritte Colony is now. She also attended school in Thorsby and Warburg. She later took an apprenticeship course in hairdressing in Edmonton.

Sam & Jeanette met the same way most couples did back then, and that was at the weekly Sat. night dance at Valley View hall, between Warburg & St. Francis.

In 1958, Sam moved from Buck Creek, to Lodgepole, still working for Pembina Pipe, and lived in the bachelor quarters there.

On Nov. 14, 1959, during quite a noteworthy blizzard, Sam & Jeanette were married in the United Church in Warburg.

They were fortunate enough to get a neat little Pembina Pipe apartment in Lodgepole, and settled into married life. There were signs that Lodgepole was once a busy, growing town, but the population was now on the decline and trailer parks empty.

Sam joined the fire dept. & the curling club. They also spent many evenings playing cards with friends. Jeanette's time was spent learning how to cook, sew, and other wifey things. They enjoyed the community spirit of Lodgepole for a year & a half before moving on.

Sam, Jeanette and Trevor Kuzio

Their first child, Trevor Miles, was born in Drayton Valley, on Sept. 10, 1960. The roads were very good at that particular time, thank goodness, but that was not always the case. On a Sunday outing in the following spring, Jeanette was at the wheel, practicing for her driver's test, when she rounded a nice semi-dry turn in the road. She was suddenly confronted by a very ugly stretch of mud that only Drayton Valleyites know about. She plunged the car right into the middle of it, until it would go no further. It was then that Sam began to verbalize (and at great length) on her chances of ever getting a driver's license. She did, however, get one.

In the spring of 1961, Sam began work in the Wilesden Green field between Drayton Valley & Rocky Mountain House. At this time they moved into Drayton Valley into the remodeled bachelor quarters near the present post office.

Six months later they moved to Rocky, and by this time a 2nd baby was on the way, They made

their home in a roomy basement suite, and on April 17, 1963, their 2nd son, Trent Murray, was born. There were lonely times that 1st year there, but fortunately were punctuated by timely visits with the Balen family from Drayton. John, Marg, Mark & Karen were always welcome guests & the 2 families have kept in touch over the years.

The family thoroughly enjoyed Rocky's climate, the chinooks in winter, and less rain than they were used to in Drayton.

Trevor, Miles, Trent, Murray and Carla Fay Kuzio

On June 15, 1966, their last child, Carla Fay, was born , and the house suddenly seemed really full of children.

By this time they were living in a house across town and only a block away from Arlo & Donna Johnson & family, also Pembina Pipe people. While in Rocky, Sam joined that fire dept. too. The crew on that dept. worked with a buddy- system when a fire alarm came in. Only half the crew had fire phones, so each of them would then call his buddy. This was all well and good, except for the fact that Sam's buddy, Dick, had an overwhelming stutter when he was excited. Fires tend to excite people, so when the fire phone rang and no one replied to a "hello" Sam & Jeanette came up with a game plan. The plan was for Sam to get ready to go, while Jeanette tried to coax Dick into giving up some of the details of the fire, Dick always came through!!

Sam.also served on the Kinsmen executive, and was part of the welcoming committee when the Honorable Judy Lamarsh opened the ceremonies for the white water canoe races. They started in Rocky Mountain House and concluded in Montreal, and what made it even more interesting, was the fact that Dave Ellery from Drayton Valley was part of the race. Jeanette was a member of the Oilwives and Kinette clubs, and quite enjoyed the fellowship & work that went with it.

In May of 1970, Sam transferred back to Drayton Valley, and once again the family lived there, only bigger now. When Carla started kindergarten, Jeanette took an office job with Panky's Electric and then later with Tri Electric.

Before and after kindergarten Carla stayed with the people next door, Gwen and Gerald Solomon, whom they are still fortunate enough to have as neighbours. After the marriage dissolved in the mid 70's, Sam did some inspection work for the Provincial Fire Dept. and later on he worked out of Singapore on off shore rigs. On one of his spells of days off in Edmonton, he met Donna, whom he married in 1980. They lived in St. Albert before moving to Ladysmith, on Vancouver Island. where they are living now.

The 3 kids took their schooling in Drayton Valley and then went on to other things, Trevor started his oilfield career for Baker Eastern as a Snubbing Hand before starting work on the drilling rigs throughout western Canada. He quit the rigs in 1984 and has been with Sperry-Sun ever since. He is presently living in Kuala Lumpar, Malaysia, with his wife, Quenic. After many years offshore as a Directional Driller, working everywhere from Borneo to Japan, he has taken the job of Directional Co-ordinator. He now spends most of his time practicing his golf, preparing himself for a pro golf career.

L to R, Trent, Carla, Jeanette and Trevor Kuzio

Trent worked the service rigs in Drayton, and then worked on drilling rigs around Alberta & BC. Of the three children, he is the only one to make Drayton Valley his home and has worked in the oilfield trucking industry for the past several years. Trent married Candice VanEmber, who has a two

year old son, James. They now have another son, Wyatt Trevor.

Trent, Trevor & Quenie have Harley-Davidsons and have ridden for thousands of miles in the last few years. Trevor and Quenie each have bikes in Malaysia as well as in Canada, for their summer vacations.

Carla began work at the Beehive Bottle Depot, and little did she know that that would shape her career for years to come. She completed post secondary education in rehabilitation and has since been a rehab worker in Edmonton. At present, she & Tim are living on an acreage outside of Edmonton. Their free time is spent caring for and enjoying their pets: 3 dogs, 1 Rottweiler, 2 Shih Tzu, 1 Maine coon cat, & an alleycat, Jeanette worked for Tri electric and the old hospital part time until the new hospital opened. She has stayed at the hospital since that time, and worked as a Nursing Assistant, an LPN, and a Unit Manager on Long Term Care.

L to R, Back Row – Bob Ouellette, Trevor Kuzio, Jack Burger, Irene Kuzio, Otto Neitsch, Tim Nathan, Front Row – Jeanette Kuzio, Queenie Kuzio, Debbie Neitsch, Pearl Neitsch, Carla Kuzio

For a number of years now, it has become tradition, for those in the family who can, to load up their cars and go out to Mara Lake in B.C.. Trevor & Quenic have a cabin there at Club Mara and it's always a treat to see the Lotoskys. Great times are had there, and in fact that's where the family celebrated Trev & Quenies Wedding. Jeanette, and Bob Ouellette were married June 26, 1999, and now make their home in Sandy Cove, at Pine Lake, AB.

Ed Note: Trent passed away September 15, 2001

GORDON & VIOLET KYNOCH

Gordon and I were married in Edmonton in 1944. Gordon was the eldest son of Gordon and Dora Kynoch Sr. He was born in Entwistle in May of 1923. I was the daughter of Robert & Olga Southoff and was born in Mannville AB, February 26, 1926.

After we were married we lived with Gordon's parents on their farm. Winters were spent in lumber camps. Gordon worked as a Tail Sawyer in various camps and I worked in the cook house. Our days started at 4:30 or 5:00 a.m. We had about 40 men to cook for and by the time we got the wood stoves fired up we were all awake and ready for work. Everything was done the hard way. Dishes were done by hand and all meals were made from scratch. We baked bread and pies and other desserts to keep the meals interesting. The men spent long hours in the cold, cutting down the trees, limbing them and skidding them out with horses. The logs were brought to the mill to be sawed and sorted in piles waiting for the trucks to haul them to a lumber yard.

In 1950 we moved to Marlboro, west of Edson. It was during this time, due to a shortage of teachers, that I supervised students through correspondence school lessons. It was a one room school with about 40 kids from grades one to nine. Most of the students were native and some had never been to school. That was quite an experience but we survived. As I kept myself busy teaching, Gordon worked in Franklin's Lumber Camp near by.

We returned to Drayton Valley and took up a homestead five miles west of town. (The land location was SW ¼ sec 15-49-8-W5). We built a small house and made the required improvements on our homestead. Gordon bought a gravel truck and hauled gravel when the weather permitted. The oil boom hit in 1953 and there were many more employment opportunities. McCall Frontenac (later called Texaco) drilled for oil on our land and set up a battery site there also. Gordon got the job as Battery Operator. Finally some financial stability in our lives! We could now afford a second vehicle and I was able to work in town. We farmed and raised some cattle and had a few horses, just the past time Gordon always wanted. He worked for Texaco Canada for the next ten years, until his untimely death in a farm accident in 1963. I sold everything and moved up north where I worked until my retirement. I now live in Wetaskiwin Alberta.

We had two children. Our daughter, Evelyn Bailer, lives in Wetaskiwin with her husband, Jerry. They have two sons, Randy and Barry. Our son, Don, lives in Rich Valley with his wife Pat. They also have two bovs, Allan and Gordon.

ALFRED EDWARD AND FRANCES MARY LAINCHBURY

Submitted by Louise Tucker (Lainchbury)

Alfred Edward Lainchbury was born in

Stratford City, Ontario, November 29, 1895. His father, Alfred Arthur, was born in 1858 in England and passed away at 94 years of age in 1952. His mother, Sarah Jane was born in 1861 in England and passed away in 1928 at 67 years of age. Both are buried in Wetaskiwin cemetery. At the age of 3, my father moved with his parents, one sister, and two brothers to a homestead in the Wetaskiwin area. (SW-2-47-23). Another brother, born later, passed away from pneumonia in 1920, at 21 years of age. He is also buried in Wetaskiwin cemetery.

My father attended John-Knox School and when grown up took a homestead south of Hughenden. He joined the army in 1916, served for 2 years, stationed in England. After he returned home (1919) he married Frances Cline, February 28, 1920 in Hughenden, Alberta.

Alfred Edward Lainchbury, First World War

Francis was born in North Platt, Nebraska, U.S.A., in 1902. She moved with her parents and brothers and sisters to Stettler, Alberta, to Red Willow district in 1903. She attended Wild Rose School and at about the age of 10, her family moved to Peace River. Her father took some government land there, but unfortunately it did not go through, so they returned to Hughenden district and took a homestead there. Francis finished school at the Teat Hills School about 14 miles south of Hughenden.

Alfred and Frances Lainchbury

After marriage they farmed in Lakesend district, about 20 miles south of Hughenden. The grocery store and post office was named Lakesend, but in 1931 they were moved a few miles east and renamed Airways, which was supposed to be a new town site, as construction had started on a railway from Unity, Saskatchewan to Bulwark, Alberta. It was the first townsite to be surveyed by air, which is where the name originated. The railway was never completed so the town never materialized, due to the depression of the 30's.

My parents farmed, had a few good years, then after seven successive years of crop failure on the dried out prairie, decided to move to Drayton Valley where they had friends and relatives. There was lots of grass and hay for their cattle and horses as well as wood and fuel.

In the spring of 1939, March 10, the move was on with seven children, Isabel, Louise, Thelma, Elwin, Iona, Albert and Walter. Margaret was born a couple of months after coming to Drayton Valley. They lost a little son, 4½ years old in 1929 of appendicitis and he is buried in the Veteran, Alberta Cemetery.

Thelma, Louise, Walter, Frances, Albert, Margaret, Elvin and Iona Lainchbury

The furniture, machinery, 5 horses, a milk cow, a pig and 1 sheep were shipped by rail from Hughenden to Entwistle. My father, Thelma, Elwin

and Iona were also included. Dad stowed the children away in the wagon box which was cleverly chained to the ceiling of the box car. He looked after the animals, and occasionally let the children come down for a while. They ate puffed wheat and whenever the train whistled, coming into a town to stop, the kids all crawled into the bunk.

They were met at the Entwistle train station by Floyd Combs, with a truck to haul out household items, etc. Also brother-in-law, Lawrence Brown and his son, Floyd, were there with a sleigh or wagon for machinery, etc. My dad assembled his wagon and horses for freight. My mother, Albert and Walter came a few days later by train to Entwistle.

The rest of the cattle, 15-20 head were chased through a couple of months later. Isabel and I had stayed back and looked after them (milked and shipped cream). When the grass was green, Dad came back, got our Durant car going, which hadn't been used for a few years and we left with the cattle. Isabel on horseback chasing them. Dad and I followed in the car, I, sometimes riding, sometimes walking.

It was a long trip, some 200 miles. It took almost the full month of June. We didn't make many miles a day. We camped early so the cattle could eat, always near a river or creek. Often the mosquitoes were bad. Dad would make smudges of smoke to keep them away. The cows were milked night and morning. We had a small cream separator, fastened to the running board of the car and we separated milk to feed the calves and sold cream as we passed through towns. We bought gas and food from the cream cheques. We travelled through Alliance, Forestburg, Roseland, Heisler and to Ferintosh, where my Dad's brother lived. We stayed there a few days for a rest and then went on to Tomahawk by crossing the river by ferry on the way to Drayton Valley.

The house on the Dodson homestead that Alfred Lainchbury moved his family into

Such luck, a baby calf was born and not able to walk, so Isabel and I pitched our tent once more and stayed overnight to watch the cattle. No fences and no herd law then. Dad went home and my brother Elwin came back the next day with the team and wagon and loaded the calf, then we were on our way to our new home, the Dodson homestead, 2 miles south of Drayton Valley, which my father rented and is now Hodgson's property. We farmed there a couple of years, then moved to the Dodson farm, which is now part of the town of Drayton Valley. It was sold to John MacKenzie Sr. so after a year there, we later spent another year on a farm in Rocky Rapids which is now owned by Art Frost.

In 1944 he had a sale and moved to Port Moody, B.C. Dad and Elwin welded in shipyards for a year during the Second World War. They returned to Drayton Valley and opened a welding shop. There was little business at that time as there were only farmers and bush camps in the area. Elwin built a sawmill and he and my father and crew worked and sawed lumber a couple of winters. Mom was their cook. Elwin traded the sawmill for a car and went to Slave Lake working in the bush there, then fishing and raising mink.

Dad, Mom, Albert, Walter and Margaret moved to the Coal Branch and Dad welded at coal mines at Greg River and Robb. They stayed there until the mines closed (1954) and by this time his health began to fail, so they bought a small house and acreage at Slave Lake and started raising mink. After a couple of years they found it too much for Dad and returned to Drayton Valley. They moved a small house on Isabel and Robert Johnson's farm, 1 mile south of Drayton Valley and lived there until his passing from a heart attack on November 27, 1960 at 65 years of age. He is buried in the Anglican Church Cemetery in Drayton Valley.

My Dad was a hard working man and was always willing to lend a hand to anyone in need. He was what we would call a "Jack of all Trades". He loved kids and had a lot of pleasure and fun with them, as well as being the caretaker of us kids when sick. One of my fondest memories when growing up was when he would take out his violin and play and teach us kids to dance. He loved to play (all by ear) and was a real old time fiddler. He played for the dances, from the time I can remember, in our little school houses, etc. Sometimes he was an orchestra by himself and sometimes was accompanied on the piano. At that time ladies all brought lunch and you paid 25 cents to eat. He had a knack with machinery and always kept everything running at threshing time, which would last a month or so on the prairies. I remember a good many times he would work all

night so that everything was ready to go at 7 a.m. He once got a finger in a wrong place and it was taken off. He said he picked it up and laid it on the tool box on the threshing machine. I guess it got lost and he suffered from freezing sensations for days. Later while crushing grain he lost another finger in the grinder, brought it home and threw it into the fire box of the cook stove. He suffered from burning sensations for days that time. He was a real repair man. It seemed he always had washing machine motors to overhaul and plough shears to sharpen for the neighbours. These were all acts of kindness.

Alfred and Francis Lainchbury

One Sunday while we were sleigh riding with neighbours, their son cut his lip wide open. My father stitched it up using horse hair and a shoe makers awl. It healed up real well and looked good. Later he cut his own hand real bad and stitched it up the same way. Sometime later he saw a doctor who said it was a fine job, but it was lucky he didn't get lock jaw as you cannot disinfect horse hair well enough to kill that germ. So after that he used human hair for stitches. He helped many folks when they were sick. Our doctor was 20 miles away and when called would come with horses and buggy. We had a barb wire telephone so when animals damaged the fences the phones were out of order, and everyone would have to check their fences. My Dad made our place a central point connecting phone lines, and made a switch box which we all learned to use.

When anyone's animals were cut in the barb wire fences, he sewed them up. He enjoyed hunting coyotes on the prairie and later hunted big game at Drayton Valley.

Mom was always busy looking after a large family. They always had a big garden, picked and canned lots of wild berries. Dad always butchered in what was called a beef ring. Several farmers took turns in butchering and would share since there were no freezers, and they could not handle a lot of meat at once. It was always great to come home from school to a big pot of soup and bread. Mom sewed for us, knitted socks and mitts. She hooked rugs, carded wool, and made quilts. Later when she had more time, she did a lot of crocheting, lovely work , not using a pattern. Mom seemed to enjoy the moves during her life. After Dad was gone she lived in a trailer in Drayton Valley. Later she spent several years in the Wishing Well Apartments. She left there and went to live with Margaret and Alcide in Prince George, then returned to Wetaskiwin, where Thelma and Andrew were and spent a couple of years there in the Lodge before she passed away in 1989, at 86 years of age. She is buried in the Drayton Valley cemetery.

Isabel married Robert Johnson (from D.V.) on January 23, 1942. She passed away from cancer on April 15, 1979 at 58 years of age. Louise married Leslie Tucker from Drayton Valley in 1943 and they still reside here. Thelma married Andrew Johnson from Drayton Valley in 1941. Both lost their lives in a car accident on January 13, 1991. Elwin married Doreen Ryan from Vancouver in 1945. They divorced and he married Ellen Pierce from Slave Lake in 1979 and live in Lumby, B.C. Iona married Don Bennet from Vancouver in 1953. They now live in Oliver, B.C. Albert married Beatrice Hinse from Slave Lake in 1955 and they are still living in Drayton Valley. Walter married Doris Joesting from Drayton Valley in 1958 and lives in the Drayton Valley area. Doris passed away with cancer in April, 1996, at the age of 57 years. Margaret married Alcide Gauthier from Lac La Biche and lives in Prince George, B.C.

JAMES ALBERT LAINCHBURY

Son of Alfred & Frances Lainchbury moved to Drayton Valley with the family in 1939. 1 attended most of my school years in Drayton Valley. In 1949 1 left to go to work in the coal mines, Gregg River & Robb Alberta. From there I went to Slave Lake and did some commercial fishing for mink feed. There I met and married Beatrice Hinse In 1955. We moved back to Drayton Valley. I then drove truck for Jensen Brothers for a few years. In 1960 1 started welding in the oil field and still live here in Drayton Valley. We had 3 children Allen, Marilyn, and Donna.

Allen married Laurie Dean. They have 2 children Leslie-Anne & Parker and live In Drayton Valley.

Marilyn married Chester Rosenberger and had 3 children. Jay, Brett, & Holly, and later divorced. Marilyn currently lives In Edmonton. Donna mar-

L to R, Marilyn, Beatrice, Albert, and Allen Lainchbury, Donna sitting

ried Len Gunderson and later divorced. After that she had a child, Spencer Lainchbury. They also live in Drayton Valley.

WALTER ALLAN LAINCHBURY

My name is Walter Allan Lainchbury, son of Alfred and Francis Lainchbury. I was born on July 22, 1936 in Consort, Alberta. In 1939, our family moved to Drayton Valley, Alberta, where I started my schooling.

In 1948, our family moved away from Drayton Valley and for the next six years we lived in the Coal Branch area of Alberta. The mine was closed down in 1954. I then moved to Lesser Slave Lake where I fished commercially for the next two years. In the early spring of 1956, when I was 19 years old, I moved back to Drayton Valley, Alberta. I worked in the oilfield for Mannix Pipeline Construction from 1956 to 1972. 1 worked all over Canada running drag line equipment, cats and other machinery to build pipelines for the oil companies.

Walter and Doris Lainchbury. Mike and Mrs. Burke talking to Augusta Joesting. Albert Lainchbury talking to Bill Washleger. Walter and Doris Lainchbury. Fritz Joesting

I met my wife, Doris Elizabeth Joesting, in July of 1956. She was born November 20, 1938. Her parents are Fritz and Auguste Joesting of Lodgepole, Alberta. We were married on February 8, 1958 in Drayton Valley, Alberta.

In 1961, we bought our first quarter section of land SW¼-04-48- 8-W5m. Jack Matheson homesteaded this land in 1936. Of the quarter, only ten acres of land was cleared. We spent many hours clearing the rest of the quarter. We bought a house from Scotty White and had Norman Hansen move it onto our land. This was home. Our first job was to clean up the old, rotten buildings that were there. The next years were busy ones. I was working ten hours a day, seven days a week. Mannix closed the yard in Drayton Valley in 1964. 1 started traveling with them on pipeline jobs. This left Doris with much of the work at home. It was a full time job for her. Doris enjoyed farming and was a very hard worker. She devoted her time to the family and livestock.

After work, weather permitting, I would break the land with my John Deere D and a breaking plow. When working after dark you could see the exhaust pipe turn cherry red and flames shoot out two feet high. In 1965, I bought a D4 Cat and breaking and cleaning up windrows became much easier. We farmed the land and raised cattle for many years. We bought three more quarters of crown land from the Government of Alberta in the following years.

In 1973, I bought a sawmill and converted it to steel. Doris and I sawed the lumber and built all the farm buildings. We built a new house in 1975. In 1991, we started raising donkeys. This was a great passion for Doris and we ended up with a dozen donkeys. Doris passed away due to cancer on April 4, 1996, in the Drayton Valley hospital. We were blessed with three children all of whom are married now and have their own children.

Robert Kenneth Lainchbury born January 16, 1959, in Edmonton, Alberta. He married Sharon Lemermeyer of Drayton Valley on April 30, 1988, in Drayton Valley. They have two children; Connor Robert Lainchbury born February 28, 1996, in Calgary, Alberta, Regan Natalie Elizabeth Lainchbury born on September 25, 1998, in Calgary, Alberta. The family is living and working in High River, Alberta, at the present time.

Robert, Raymond, Debora, Walter and Doris Lainchbury

Debora Elizabeth Lainchbury born August 14, 1962, in Drayton Valley, Alberta. She married Robert Wigmore of Edmonton, Alberta, on November 29, 1986 in Drayton Valley. They have two children. Alan Robert Wigmore born May 24, 1987, in Edmonton, Alberta andKevin Bradley Wigrnore born October 10, 1988, in Hinton, Alberta. The family is living and working in the Drayton Valley area.

Raymond Alfred Lainchbury born September 22, 1967, in Drayton Valley, Alberta. He married Tracy Stasiuk of Drayton Valley, on July 1, 1989, in Drayton Valley. They have two children; Ryker Raymond Lainchbury born March 29, 1995, in Drayton Valley, Alberta and Shallyn Christine Lainchbury born April 30, 1998, in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. The family is living and working in the Rocky Mountain House area.

In 1998, 1 sold the farm and moved to town. I am enjoying my retirement. I like to camp and when possible take my boat out on the water and fish. I have liked living in the Drayton Valley area and enjoy the people and surroundings that this community has to offer.

BOB AND GRACE LANDERS

Submitted by Grace Landers

Bob was born near Weaston, Ontario. When he was three years old, his parents came West to Alberta, where they farmed near Kinsella. I was born in the State of Iowa, U.S.A. When I was eight, my parents moved to Canada. We lived at Fallis for a few years, then moved to Edmonton.

After finishing high school, I attended Camrose Normal School. I taught for about three years in the Kinsella and Viking area. In July, 1929, Bob and I were married. We spent Christmas that year with my parents in Edmonton, then came out to Drayton Valley with my sister and brother-in-law, Beatrice and Calvin Beller. Calvin had recently taken a homestead south of Drayton Valley. I'll never forget that trip. We went by train to Entwistle, where Calvin had left his team and sleigh. The only way of travelling then was with horses. It was very cold, but blankets and hot bricks for our feet kept us warm. We stopped for a while at Runsers, a little south of Moon Lake, on the old road, then again at Scotty McCall's in Rocky Rapids.

On our return trip a week later, we stopped at Runser's that night for a few hours' sleep, as the train left Entwistle early the next morning. In the morning we awoke to the sound of water dripping off the roof. A chinook had arrived while we slept.

We liked the country, and because the "Hungry Thirties" was beginning on the prairies – wheat was selling at 25 cents a bushel – Bob decided to take a homestead in the Drayton Valley area. He took one just south of Calvin's quarter.

When we came to Drayton Valley, the village consisted of four buildings. On the corner where Mayhew Motors now stands, was Wm. Drake's house and his store with the post office. Across the road to the south was the schoolhouse, and near where the Craft Centre is now, was the Church of God, a small frame building. Nearly every quarter in the area had a family living on it.

While we were in the process of building a house, I taught school in Drayton Valley. There were about 25 pupils attending. At that time, the school started in March and ended just before Christmas. We lived in a little house on Leroy Plott's place during the summer. It was near our homestead. Then we moved into Newt Dodson's house, just north of the Wollschlagee coulee. They had moved into their house in Drayton Valley, later bought by John MacKenzie. It was two miles to school, so I rode my horse.

In 1931, we moved into our new log house. It had taken a long time to build. The logs had to be hauled from quite a distance, then cut, peeled and dried. The cellar had to be dug by hand. Eric Edholm and Stanley Pickavance put up the logs, doing a nice job of dove-tailing. Bob, his brother-in-law, Ralph Blaine, and my brother, John Smith, did the rest. It was exciting, moving into our first home.

Then land had to be cleared, not by big machin-

ery, but by hand. There were a lot of trees to be felled and brush to be cut. The common implement was an axe. It was very satisfying to see the land cleared and broken, even if it was slow work.

The roads were something. We will never forget. If the road past Sekura's went south across Highway 22 and across the Wollschlager coulee you would reach the quarter where we now live. There was a road across the coulee and that is the way we went to Drayton Valley. It was narrow and steep and crossed the creek at the bottom. It was only passable for horses and was condemned later. All the roads were dirt roads, and west of Violet Grove, then called Soda Creek, there were only narrow trails through the bush, and few of them. Also there were only trails west of the Drayton Valley area. Sometimes the roads were very muddy.

There is one thing we could be very thankful for. The bush was full of game, deer, elk and moose. We would get our meat in hunting season and can it, so we would have meat the rest of the year. There was also an abundance of wild fruit, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Also we had milk, butter, eggs and vegetables, produced on the farm. I remember that we had to put a chicken-wire fence around the garden to protect it from the rabbits.

Back: Grace, Donald, Bob, Ken. Front: Audrey, Ellen and Bob Jr. Landers

Bob spent several months every year working in the lumber camps, for fifteen cents an hour. There were many lumber camps in the district. He worked quite a while for Leroy Plotts. Other camps he worked at were: Hystad's, Farrell's, Pawbek's, Ross and Beard's and Albert Stordalsvoll's.

We lived on the homestead until 1946. Ken and Bobby had started school at Violet Grove. They had 1½ miles to go. They walked or rode a horse. Before we moved we had five children, Ken, Bob, Ellen, Audry and Donald.

In 1946, we sold our homestead and bought the quarter where we now live. Bob's mother had recently bought the farm from Jimmy Taylor, then we bought it from her. Our nearest neighbours were Bill and Georgina Wollschlager, who lived just across the road.

After we sold the homestead and moved to the farm, Ellen started school and later Audry and Donald. Now they had three mules to go to school on, partly across the school section. The road was just a trail through the bush. In the winter is was very cold. Ken would fasten the reins and they would pull the blankets over their heads to keep warm. Old Nancy knew the way and brought them home.

Bob Lander's family

Our family grew up and married. Ken married Phyllis Fairholm, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. Fairholm of McLeoad Valley. They have two children, Gerald and Lisa. Gerald married Laura Wolodko. They live on the quarter south of us. Bob and Gayle (daughter of Ken and Colleen Sproule, of Rocky Rapids), divorced. They have four boys: Rob, Neil, Aaaron and Jeffrey. Bob has a barber shop in Drayton Valley. Ellen and her husband Bob Bolsover live in Toronto. They have two boys: David and Scott. Audrey and her husband, Gerhard Grieb, live near Blackfalds. They have three children: Cynthia, Nolan and Nicola. Audrey taught

school in Drayton Valley for a few years. Don lives in Edmonton with his wife Linda (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Berezowski) and their five children: Dawn, Cheryl, Tracy, Shawn and Susan. He also has a daughter from a former marriage, Stacy, who lives in Stony Plain with her mother.

Editor's note: Both Bob and Grace have passed away.

ADOLPH & MARY LANDSIEDEL

By Lois Coward

Adolph grew up in the Castor area. In 1934, with the drought on the prairies at its height, he came to the Pembina district and homesteaded on SE 16-48-08 W5M. The green of the area must have seemed like heaven after the prairies. He said that at least if you have too much rain, the grass grows and you can have a cow.

Mary Isabel Caldwell grew up in the Greencourt area. In 1940 she came to the Pembina district as a housekeeper. She and Adolph were married in 1941.

They farmed, with Adolph working in logging camps in the winter and Bell staying at home to care for the animals and children. Since clearing trees by hand was slow, there was not much open land to raise a crop and being so far from a railroad or even a road, the farm was a good place to live but not to make a living. Adolph worked in the logging camps every winter until the oil came to offer a different source of income. It was on the steam engines that powered the mills that he obtained the knowledge to qualify for his fourth class steam ticket; this enabled him to work on the boilers on the rigs in the winter.

With the discovery of oil in 1952 on the adjoining quarter, life became a little easier. Roads were built, power and phones came to the area as well as doctors, a high school, hospital and stores.

Adolph worked in various areas of the oil field, skidding logs on ROWs, fencing, firing boiler in winter and as a battery operator.

Since there was no place for single men to live, Adolph and Bell fixed up a couple of bunk houses and supplied board and room to as many as 10 young men. As there would be some working on all three shifts, the hours were long and cooking for that number of healthy appetites on a wood stove was interesting.

In 1970, they sold the farm and moved to Swan Hills where they lived for five years at which time they moved to Barrhead. Bell still lives in Barrhead, Adolph passed away in 1990.

Adolph & Bell raised three children, Noreen, Lois and Kenneth. Noreen (Rusty) Jorgenson has operated the UFA bulk station in Drayton Valley since 1966. Lois (David) Coward farm and have construction equipment at Easyford. Ken (Janet) has owned oilfield related service companies in Swan Hills and Edmonton since 1965. They live in St Albert. At this time there are 9 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

FRANK AND VIOLET (URKEVICH) LANG

My sister Lena and I stayed home and looked after our parents and the farm. After mom and dad passed away, Lena went to work in Edmonton, Alberta.

In 1959 1 married Frank Lang. In 1962 we took out a homestead and have done a little bit of farming, along with Frank working out in the oilfield.

Frank and I have five children. The oldest Sherry was born in 1960. She married Paul Buttrey, and they have three daughters – Melinda, Natalie, and Kristina. Paul is a Pastor of the Crawford Bay Church in British Columbia.

Karen was born in 1962, and is now married to Reg Ahlskog of Wildwood, Alberta. They have two daughters, Tamara and Theresa. Karen works for Canada Post and Reg works for Alberta Forestry.

Kevin was born in 1965, and is married to Mariann Pudlo of Wildwood. They have one daughter, Kerri, and are expecting another child in May, 1998. Kevin works for Evergreen Gas Co-op, and Mariann works for Amoco.

Barry was born in 1966, and is married to Dawn Stamore from Ottawa, Ontario. They have one son, Frank, and Barry works for B.J. Electric in Edmonton.

Our fifth child, Chris, was born in 1975 and is attending the University of Alberta studying Forestry. He will be married on July 18, 1998 to Natasha Winfield, who works for the Treasury Branch in Edmonton.

Frank and I are still living on our farm, but taking things much easier.

JACK LANK (LENKO) FAMILY

Jack's parents came to Canada from Austria in 1897. They took up a homestead in the Hillard district, near Mundare. Jack was born in 1900 at Chipman, Alberta. He had three brothers, Mike, Bill and Nick. The nearest school was located six miles from his parents' homestead. If Jack attended school at all, his schooling was minimal. Jack left home when he was 12 or 13 years old and to support himself, worked mostly for farmers in the area. He eventually went to Saskatchewan to find work, but times were tough in Saskatchewan too, so he returned to Alberta.

Jack Lank

Jack met Ethel (known as Eva) Slepanki at Chisholm, near Slave Lake. Eva and her brother had gone to visit another brother who was working in Chisholm and Jack was working there also. Eva's parents had immigrated to Canada in 1900, from the Ukraine and had filed on a homestead in the Strathcona area near Beaverhill Lake. Eva was born in 1902, and attended school in Mundare.

Nick Lank

Jack and Eva were married in the late 1920's. Leon, their oldest son, was born in Mundare. Jack continued to work in Chisholm for a period of time after Leon's birth. In 1932, Jack and Eva came to Moon Lake and took up a homestead located on the south side of the road three miles west of where the Moon Lake School was eventually built.

Leon's younger siblings, Elizabeth and Adeline, were born at Moon Lake. Then, in the fall of 1935, the family moved back to Mundare where Jack worked in garages and for farmers in the area. Another son, Eddie, was born in Mundare. He died a few months later and is buried there. Leon attended school in Mundare for a few months and then the family moved again, this time to a bunkhouse near Drayton Valley where Jack worked at Ferrow's camp, cutting logs. In 1937, Jack took his family back to the homestead at Moon Lake. Another daughter, Margaret Rose, was born there but died when she was just a baby.

Jack and Eva supported their family with mixed farming and Jack worked in sawmills in the area during the winter months. In the late 1930's, Jack killed and skinned small furred animals to sell their pelts. The Lanks had several cows, some horses, chickens and geese. It required a great deal of work to provide sustenance for these farm animals and birds. When Jack was home, Eva worked alongside her husband doing the farm work, milking the cows and shipping cream for an income. When Jack was away working, Eva did the farm work herself, with the help of the children. Neighbors would help Eva with things she was unable to manage alone. She would ring-bark the trees so they would die and become dry for use as firewood and for making lumber. She always had one of the best gardens in the district, producing huge cabbages, which she made into sauerkraut in crocks. The family picked blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and saskatoons, which Eva preserved. She also made lots of cottage cheese in both summer and winter. She froze the cottage cheese in the winter and they would scrape off the top layer to serve with a meal. She also beautified their yard with fragrant flowers, being especially fond of Sweet Williams. Eva was a hard-working, capable woman, a compassionate, gentle and caring mother and grandmother.

Leon Lank

The Lank children all attended Moon Lake School, with Leon starting when the school opened in 1937. With three miles to walk, they missed a lot of school because of bad weather and trails that were either snowed in or were covered with mud

four inches deep. Because her parents had come from the Ukraine and she had grown up in a Slavic community, Eva knew the Ukrainian language best. But she had learned English at school in Mundare and now that her kids were going to school, they kept her conversational English honed. However, in her senior years, Eva's second language receded and, sadly, her grandchildren were not able to have verbal communication with her.

Jack worked on the Alaska Highway for a few months in 1943. Leon wasn't much inclined to literary pursuits, so Liz would write letters to her Dad, telling him the family and community news. Jack, in turn, would have someone write letters back. Although Jack spoke English well, his formal education had been scant and writing was difficult. Jack had bought a threshing machine in 1943, so at harvest time he came home to thresh his own crop and to earn money nearer home by threshing for his neighbors.

In the fall of 1944, the Lank family moved a few miles east and rented Fred Walaschuk's place on the west side of the old road to Entwistle. This new residence was only 1½ miles from the Moon Lake School, so school attendance was much better after the move.

In 1947, Jack got a truck, rigged it with a water tank and worked for the Dept. of Public Works spraying water on the clay sub-layer as Highway 16 was constructed from Carvel to Seba Beach. When the job ran out, Jack hauled lumber for sawmills in the area. Later he hauled gravel. At one period, Jack worked on a gravel crusher near Edmonton.

In 1948, Jack bought the quarter of land previously owned by Fred Chomsey, a half mile south of where Lanks had been living since the fall of '44. Jack lived on the farm in the Moon Lake area until 1979 when he was confined to the Dickensfield long-term care facility in Edmonton. He was a member of the Elks Club in Entwistle for several years. Jack died in 1990.

After completing her schooling in Moon Lake, Liz cooked in lumber camps, then worked at Combs' store in Rocky Rapids where she met Bud (Elden) Young. Liz says Bud was riding the most beautiful horse she had ever seen. Liz and Bud married and have one son, Larry. They lived in Edmonton since the early part of their marriage.

Adeline finished school in Moon Lake, worked in BC, came back to Alberta and married Don Sheeler. They had five children – Debbie, Marlin, Roger, Gwen and Kelvin, and the family lived on a farm in the Moon Lake area. Eva, Adeline's mother, lived in a small house in their yard and was a wonderful grandmother to the children. Debbie died of leukemia at age eleven. Then, tragically, in 1966, when their children were still very young, Don and Adeline were both killed in an automobile accident. Thereafter, the Sheeler children lived at the home of their maternal grandfather, Jack Lank.

Leon worked in sawmills and hauled lumber with his dad. Later he worked in oilfield construction in and around the Drayton Valley area. The Sheeler kids say that, with their parents gone, Leon was a really kind influence in their lives-a good, caring uncle to them. He remained a bachelor and lived on the family's property until his move to Shangrila Lodge in Drayton Valley in 1998.

After Don and Adeline's death, Eva moved to Edmonton to live with Liz and Bud Young where she remained for 11 years until her death in 1977.

Jack's younger brother, Nick, operated the Moon Lake store for several years.

HANS AND SOPHIE LEMERMEYER

Hans was raised in the Warburg area while Sophie lived in the Genesee district. We were married on August 21, 1956, and moved to Lodgepole, where I was hired to teach grades one to three. The schools were under construction and we took turns teaching. One day, the children in grades one, two and three attended, while the children from grades four to six attended the next day. This schedule went on for a couple of weeks in September.

There was a lot of drilling occurring in the area and families were very transient, following the rigs. Children were continually transferring in and out of the classroom. I had to use two registers in order to record all the names. By the end of October, I had over 50 children in my classroom. As a result, another portable was built and the children were divided.

Hans began working in this area in 1954. He was employed by Mannix Construction as a pipeline clearing foreman in the Buck Creek area, and later became a general assistant foreman.

After we were married, Hans was sent to Monmartre, Saskatchewan, to clear a right of way for a pipeline. I moved to Lodgepole to a teacherage on the school property.

The ferry ride across the river was an adventure in itself. With long line ups, and the ferry breaking down, it often took hours to get across the river. Hans experienced an unforgetable adventure, when the ferry broke loose and went floating down the river with a load of vehicles. It began to sink, and the passengers had to scramble to the roof tops of their vehicles. They spent several hours cruising before they were rescued.

We spent two years in Lodgepole. Hans changed

jobs and began to contract operate for Canada Cities Service in the spring of 1958. In August of the same year, we decided to move to Drayton Valley. We bought a lot south of the Hospital on which we placed a skid house. The Rosaire Parenteau family lived next to us. We were the only two families living south and east of the hospital. This area was not developed and we had to haul our own water and use an outdoor toilet. In the two year period that we spent there, all the surrounding lots were filled with trailers, skid houses and modern homes. H.W. Pickup School was built then and served at first as the Frank Maddock High School.

Hans and Sophie Lemermeyer and family

Our first child, a daughter, Sharon, was born on February 6, 1959. The following year our second daughter, Janice, was born on April 15, 1960. We outgrew our skid house, so in September, 1960, we moved to a new house on 45th street and 54th avenue. Here we remained for the next sixteen years, with five new members joining the family. Our next two daughters arrived; Colette, born on April 15, 1962 and Roxane, born May 5, 1963. On November 3, 1964, our son Robert joined us. The following year on November 26, our daughter, Linda Marie, was born. However on April 17, 1966, she passed away. Our last child arrived on August 22, 1968, a daughter, Sandra.

Our children attended St. Anthony School for grades 1 to 9. Upon completing grade nine, they attended FMHS from which they all graduated. Sharon, Roxane and Sandra, went on to the University of Alberta. Sharon and Roxane obtained a degree in Education, while Sandra received a degree in Physical Education.

Janice chose to work at a local flower shop for a couple years, and then later began to work at the Alberta Treasury Branch, where she remained for the next twelve years. On May 23, 1981, Janice was married to Mark Berlinguette. They make their home here in Drayton Valley.

Following graduation, Colette was employed at Home Hardware. The following year on September 11, 1982, Colette was married to John McLaughlin. They lived in Cynthia for a couple of years, and later moved to Drayton Valley. They have three daughters, Lindsay, 13, Katherine, 11, and Kristie, 8.

After graduation, Robert attended NAIT and graduated in telecommunications. He battery operated for CanOxy as a relief operator. Later, he was employed by Mobil Oil. He worked in the Drayton Valley area for a couple of years, and later worked at Sierra in northwestern, B.C. In 1990 he left Mobil Oil, and toured Europe for a few months. In the spring of 1991, he began to work for BHP Petroleum as a production foreman in the Lodgepole area, and later was transferred to Fort St. John, B.C., where he remained for the next five and a half years. NCE Resources bought out BHP Petroleum. In the spring of 1997, NCE Resources transferred Robert to Drayton Valley. On August 22, 1998, Robert married Shannon St. John.

Our youngest daughter, Sandra, was married to Ken Bannard on July 15, 1989. They have four boys; Michael, 8, Jordon, 5, Jason, 2, and Aaron, 2 months. They make their home in Drayton Valley.

Upon graduating for the University of Alberta with a B.Ed. Degree, Roxane obtained a teaching position at St. Anthony School and has remained there for the last 11 years. She also resides in Drayton Valley.

After graduating form FMHS, our eldest daughter, Sharon, was employed at the Veteran's Hospital in Edmonton. She remained there for about three years. She then switched to part time work, and enrolled at the U of A from which she graduated with a B.Ed. Degree. In 1987, she spent six months at St. Nichlas School in Edmonton and did some substitute teaching in Drayton Valley the following year.

On April 30, 1988, Sharon was married to Bob Lainchbury who was also born and raised in the Drayton Valley area. They now make their home in High River. They have one son, Connor, 2.

After our move to Drayton Valley in 1959, I taught part time filling vacant positions at the Eldorado School. In 1967, I helped out as a library clerk at FMHS. In 1969, I began teaching full time at St. Anthony School and remained there until my retirement in 1991. I taught grades 1 and 2, and spent 2 years in the library.

On December 4, 1976, we moved to a farm in the Violet Grove area (NE 26-48-8 W5). We had a modular home moved to the farm, and slowly began to make improvements. We planted over 100 trees. Hans was interested in the Limousin breed of cattle. We had few head of cattle while still living in town. This prompted our move and to expand our cattle herd.

We are still residing on our farm. We are both retired, and no longer farming. We plan to remain here as long as our health permits us.

Ed. Note: Hans passed away September 9, 1999. He will be sadly missed by all.

DON AND ELLA LATHE

Submitted by Ella Lathe

Don started to work for Stanolind Oil and Gas in the Bonnie Glen field in July, 1953. We got married in November, 1953 and lived at Ma-Me-O Beach until November, 1955, when Don was transferred to the Rose Creek Area, west of Alder Flats. We lived at Buck Lake until June, 1956, when we moved to the Drayton Valley area. Home was a skid shack in Joesting's yard for six months, then we were able to move into a company house at D Lease, about six miles north of Lodgepole. The company house was a dream come true after living in a skid shack.

We moved to Drayton Valley in the winter of 1959 and lived in a company house on 47th Street. In 1962, we moved to A Lease, west of Violet Grove and ten months later, we moved back to Drayton Valley. We lived in a company house on 48th Street, which was home to us until 1985. Don retired from his job in 1984 and in 1985 we moved to Mill Bay, B.C., where we are still residing.

Don and Ella Lathe

Norah was born in 1955 in the Wetaskiwin hospital, while we lived at Ma-Me-O Beach. She married Dave Walker and they and their two daughters, Andrea and Elizabeth live in Stettler. Dave works for the Royal Bank. Dave lived in Drayton valley and worked for the Royal Bank for six months in 1978-79.

Dale was born in the Wetaskiwin hospital, while we were living in Lodgepole. Dale and his wife Charlene and their children Nicole and Nicolas live in Edmonton, where Dale works at the University.

Judy was born in 1962, in the Drayton Valley

Back Row, Nicolas Lathe, Dale Lathe, Andrea Walker, Dave Walker, Ray Sopel, Christy Sopel. Front Row: Nicole Lathe, Charlene Lathe, Elizabeth Walker, Norah Walker, Judy Sopel, Rachel Sopel, Darren Sopel

hospital, while we were living in Drayton Valley. Judy and her husband Ray Sopel and their children Christy, Darren and Rachel live in Drayton Valley, where Ray works for Petro-Canada.

Don helped coach minor hockey for a few years and was involved with the Drayton Valley Ski Club. In appreciation for his efforts he was given a life time membership to the Ski Club.

I worked with the Parents Group for Brownies, Girl Guides, Cubs and Scouts and I canvassed for the Red Cross for quite a number of years.

Through his work, Don was involved with some of the first efforts in controlling and handling oil pollution. As a result of trying to find equipment to handle oil spills, Don and Norm Hartenick developed and patented the Pedco skimmer which we manufactured and marketed until 1986, when we sold the patent to Sanivan in Montreal.

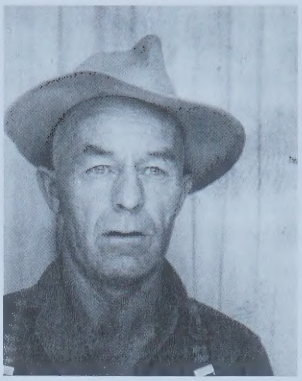
A big part of our lives was our farm at Buck Creek which occupied a lot of our spare time. Our main crop was forage seed which we cleaned and sold to farmers in the area. We sold three quarters and all of our farm equipment in 1986 but still have a quarter section.

We have many happy memories of Drayton Valley, some of which are: the Centennial Celebrations; Drayton Valley hosting the Voyageurs when they came down the river; the rodeos and parades; the Ice Carnivals; Minor Hockey Week; the Drayton Valley Players; the Drayton Valley Entertainers, and also the Rebels whogave us some great hockey games.

We enjoy our visits to Drayton Valley and are always pleased to see our many friends during our visits. When we first moved to the Drayton Valley area it was believed that Drayton Valley would become a ghost town in thirty years. We are glad to see it is a thriving town and wish it and its residents well.

FRANCIS HENRY AND BARBARA JEAN (MACKENZIE) LAW

Coming by horse and wagon from Paradise Valley, Alberta in 1938 the Law family arrived in the Drayton Valley area. She had been born in Halifax, N.S. December 6th, 1908 and lived in Lethbridge and Vermilion areas. He was born in Stephenson Twp. Muskoka District, Ontario to John Henry Law and Letitia Eugenia Billingsley on July 27th, 1902. John Law died in 1899. His mother, "Lettie" moved to Paradise Valley, Alberta to be near sisters, bringing her seven children on the train. Francis spent the rest of his growing years here. He lived with relatives the Clarks for some time. Lettie remarried to Jim Rutherford about 1916, the marriage did not last long.



Francis Law

His eldest sister Eva May Law born July 29th, 1897 married Fred Wilkes and stayed in Lloydminster. Their son Bill Wilkes came to the Drayton Valley area.

Francis Laws sister, Marjorie Eugenia Law born May 29th, 1900 married Walter Durham January 23rd, 1920 and came to the Drayton Valley area where they raised their family. Mary born 1920 married (1) Alfred Pratt, (2) Bill Medwed, George born 1922, married Ethel Walker, Ken born 1923 died June 9th 1944 in France, Mitt born 1925 (1) Lydia Hamilton (2) Yvonne Mundore. Both Walter and Marjorie are now buried in the Riverview Cemetery. Art born 1927 married Hazel Iverson, Iris born 1927 married Harold Bierkos. A sister Gwendoline Florence Law born August 8th 1904 died as a result of a house fire on 30th May 1906 in Ontario. Then sister Florence Gwendoline Law was born July 14th 1908. She married first Clarence Murray a hockey player, later married

Barbara MacKenzie and grandson Ricardo Block

John Roper in 1964 after Clarence passed away. She won the Irish Sweepstakes and purchased a small private hospital in Victoria, B.C. Sister Fairy Amelia Law, known as "Faye" was born December 24th, 1910 and also went to B.C. She married about 1934 (1) Frank Miller (2) Jim Brown.

Bruce Hamilton Kitchener Law born 31st October 1914 married Yvonne Arial November 5th, 1938 and raised his family in B.C. Eldon Everett Law born 22nd February, 1913 married 15th October, 1938 Nora Pratt and also raised his family in B.C.

When Francis, known as "Shorty" (and hated the nickname) and Barb came to Drayton Valley, son Norman rode a pony lent to him by his uncle John McKenzie. Daughter Irene, only 5 years old, felt sad leaving her little pet gopher. She loved all animals. She later had a pony, Dixie, to ride to town.

The first home in the Drayton Valley area for Francis Law family was a cabin across from Davis's and rented from Ericksons. Barb kept newspapers plastered on the walls to help keep out drafts. Norman, Jean and Irene attended Violet Grove School for a short time.

Francis Law, a sawmill partner with Bill Block by Rat Creek

Francis purchased a quarter of land just east of Drayton Valley (on what is now called the "ring road") SE-9-49-7-W5 for $500.00 from W.D. Lambert. There they raised their family Jean, Norman, Irene, John and Frank. Francis did a little farming or skidding logs. Barb taught school in several places, Drayton Valley, Vermilion, Rye District etc. until glaucoma caused her to lose her sight. Francis took care of one of the first skating rinks for the town. He loved to dance and play ball. He had an incredible sense of balance and is known to have walked on his hands on a bridge railing and also on the rafters of the MacKenzie barn while they were building it.

In 1968 Francis passed away, and March 28th, 1971 Barb passed away at 63 years. They are both buried in the Riverview Cemetery.

L to R, Back – Jean, Barb and Norman Law, Front – Irene and John Law

JOHN AND SHIRLEY (DAVIDSON) LAW

Kenneth John Law was born December 2nd, 1939 in Vermilion, Alberta. It was in this area his mother, Barbara Jean (MacKenzie) wife of Francis Law had been teaching school, while his dad worked back on the farm in Drayton Valley.

The farm of Lyle and Rachel Beckett, cousins to Francis is now Aspenview. The next farm south of Aspenview was at that time the Law farm. To get to it in those days you went east of town past what is now Aspenview, turned south on what is now called the "Ring Road". Just before Law's on the left side of the road (east side) was Andrew and Thelma Johnsons and if you continued past Law's and around the bend you came to Floyd and Georgina Peck's farm. If you turned left at the end of what is now Aspenview the first farm on your left was Starlings and down the road (what is now the cemetery road) and east of Starlings is the Kaczor Farm. Basil and Sally are buried in the Riverview Cemetery but son Zenor still resides here.

Shirley Bell Davidson was born October 22nd, 1942 in Edmonton, daughter of Robert Leslie Davidson who had been raised in Tomahawk area and Esther Opal Sjerdahl of Rocky Rapids. Her parents had married in Northleigh.

At age 49 or 50 her parents moved to Slave Lake. When Shirley was 16 she went to work for Bill and Mary Block at "Block's Store". Shirley lived with her brother Alvin Davidson for 8 or 9 months. He moved to Taber. She lived with Rachel Anderson and worked at the bakery for Otto Nichol about one year, then she met John Law. They were married in the Anglican Church July 15, 1962. The dance was held at Whitby School, north of Drayton Valley.

Wedding of John Law and Shirley Davidson

First son Lester Dave Law was born December 2nd, 1962 in Drayton. Lester met Connie Brown and son Garrett John was born October 1st, 1994. John and Shirley's second son Darrell Robert Law was born June 4th 1965. He married Shawna Marie MacPherson about 1991. Daughter Trisha Marie was born January 27th 1994 and Trina Robyn was born February 29th, 1995. John and Shirley lived on his parents' farm. They lost their little home to fire, but soon had another.

At one time John spent time up at Cadomin catching the colts of wild horses to bring home, train and sell.

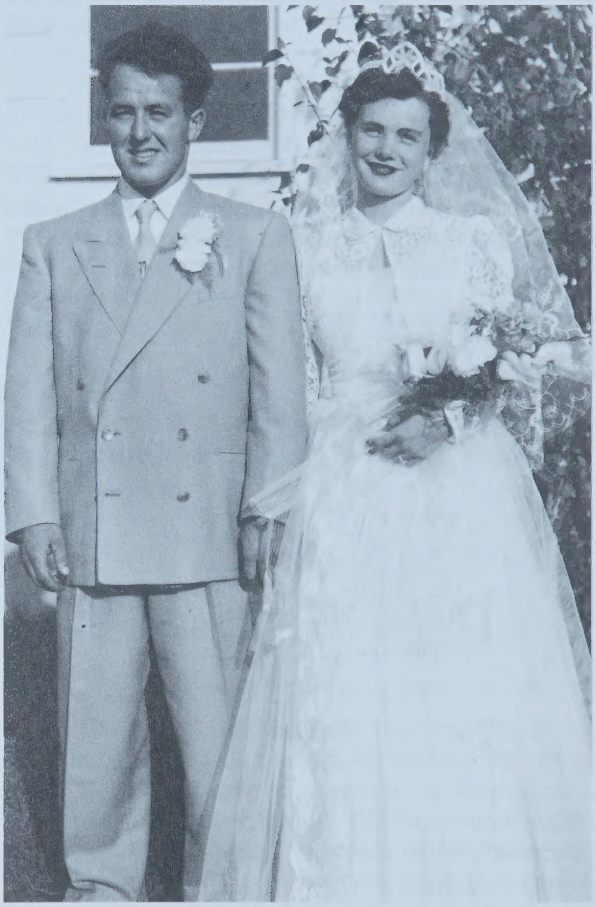
They lived out on the Pembina River a short time. In 1973 they purchased the old Fry homestead where they still reside with children and grandchildren near. He started a company called "Shiron".

Every year they made a trip into the mountains by horseback. They built a cabin up there. John enjoyed hunting, fishing and horses over the years. His home is filled with trophies and his photo albums of wild life would be the envy of any outdoor magazine.

NORMAN AND FLORENCE (CAMERON) LAW

Norman Edward Law was born June 29th, 1931 at Lloydminster to Francis Henry Law and Barbara Jean MacKenzie. He went to school at Paradise Valley.

Norman enjoyed the country dances, ball games and skating that nearly everyone in the community attended. He met Florence Edith Cameron daughter of Florence Mary Davidson and Frederick Fraser Cameron. She was born November 27th 1936 Rocky Rapids, Alberta. They married about 14th September 1953 in Edmonton. Norm did several jobs. He hauled lumber and drove a gravel truck.



Norman and Florence Law

Their first home was a small house on his parent's farm. He later purchased a quarter of land east of Drayton Valley. The road past it is now a paved highway called "The Rocky Mountain House Road". They lived in a big older house there until he built their new home.

Son Grant Edward Law was born April 30th 1954 in Edmonton. Grant later married Sharon Chudyk in 1980 at Drayton Valley. Their son Lewis Aaron was born in Drayton Valley. They were not together too long and she returned to Saskatchewan.

Daughter Norma Jean Law was born 20th May, 1958 in Edmonton. She married Al Hinz November

22, 1975. She already had Jennifer Ann born October 29th, 1974, Brandon Mitchel was born June 3rd 1981, and Desiree Dawn born February 8th, 1977. The children live with Al. Norma resides in Drayton Valley to date.

Norman was tragically killed on the highway when getting his car from a ditch near Thorsby October 31, 1994. He is buried in the Riverview Cemetery.

Florence, Grant and Norma lived in Edmonton for a few years. She enjoyed her house and garden back in Drayton and her walks and coffeeing with friends.

MEMORY OF FRANCIS LAW

(As Told By My Father Dick Block)
By Juanita Block

Francis Law worked skidding logs with horses. He worked for Harry Mastre one winter when they first came. Then he skidded some at home.

Francis Law's team and wagon behind the old Elk's Hall

Bill Block and Norman Law had a mill in the bush. He worked for them and Art Durham sawed. George and Walter were on the mill. It may have been Arts sawmill. Francis skidded, Milt and Norman hauled a couple loads that winter. Mary Durham cooked. Andrew Johnson worked there for a while. He set up the sawmill for them once.

The mill was across the river from Lodgepole, west about six miles (one and a half miles from Rat Creek) – or south of Cynthia about nine miles. You had to ford the river. They did build a bridge on one creek of logs, then later sawed lumber and took down for planking. They never made money there. It took them two years to get ready to go, then shortly decided to move out.

Francis had an old bunkhouse there. It had room for three bunks, a stove and little table.

One winter morning Dick Block and Francis loaded the bunkhouse on the sleigh early. They were coming out by team and sleigh. They had forgotten to empty the water pail and it was splashing a little.

Francis Law on raft on North Saskatchewan River

L to R – Francis Law, Bruce Law, Marjorie (Law) Durham, Eva (Law) Wilkes and Florence (Law) Roper

They traveled a few miles sitting in the bunkhouse with the fire going, b.s ing. In the summer the water had washed out the trail about three feet by the river. When they came to the river suddenly the sleigh dropped through the ice. The front of the sleigh dropped straight down, with the back almost straight up. With a splash the clock on the shelf behind Dick fell in the water pail. They got straightened out and continued on. They set the clock on the heater to dry out. When they stopped at Violet Grove to get some cookies and make coffee, the clock was dry and running well. It was in the middle of the night when they got to Drayton Valley. They made about 3 mph and took about 11 hours.

ELLA LEBLANC (SCHMIDT)

Bill and Lydia Schmidt and daughter Ella moved from Tomahawk to Violet Grove in 1934, to homestead a quarter section of land. Dad had built our log cabin prior to moving. They then cleared land by hand to begin mixed farming. A son, Albert, was born in 1934.

Nearest neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. Smithinsky, sons Harold and George; Uncle Everett and Minnie Brandt, son Edwin; Ernst and Bertha Schmidt (grandparents); Lawrence and Riggie Schmidt, children Barbara, David, Marvin and Linda; Uncle August and Jossie Schmidt, children Dena, Lewis and Fern.

Attended one-room Violet Grove School, 2½ miles from home, from 1939 to 1945. Teacher, grade 1 – Mr. Davis; Miss Stonehawker – grade 2 and Ernie Forsythe who also owned the grocery store taught grades 3 to 6. One teacher taught all grades from 1 to 9.

Dad and Mom sold the farm in 1945 and moved to BC. I married Sig LeBlanc in 1950, and we had five children, Cherie, Reg, Eugene, Laurel and Bradley.

DONALD AND ANNE L'HIRONDELLE

Written by Donald H.J. L'Hirondelle

On September 28, 1955, at the age of 21, I packed up my 1946 Plymouth and left my hometown of Truner Valley to seek my fame and fortune in the Pembina Oilfields. The trip to Drayton Valley was made in the company of Dale White, who was employed by Pembina Pipe Line, and Dale McKellar. Dale White guided us from Breton through rough and muddy roads to Pembina's Buck Creek Pump Station, the ferry on the North Saskatchewan River and finally to the Village of Drayton Valley. After having dinner at the Drayton Valley Hotel and a few beers, we parted our ways and I spent the first night in the back seat of my car, in the Hotel's parking lot.

The next morning, Dale McKellar and I set out to find a job. We drove west of Violet Grove looking for the crown of a drilling rig. We found a rig and climbed up the stairs to the doghouse. The floor was shaking, hoses were jiggling and chains were rattling. It scared the h—l out of me and I told Dale: "I don't know about you, but my career in the drilling industry is over". We came back to Drayton Valley and stopped off at J & L Steel to see a high school buddy, Al Lineham. He told me I could stay a few nights in the shop's pump repair room.

The next day I filled out a job application at Pembina Pipe Line and one at Stanolind Oil & Gas. Stanolind (now Amoco) hired me and told me to report for work the next morning (October 1, 1955) and that the field foreman would take me out to the field. The foreman didn't show up and I spent the whole day cleaning storm windows in the attic space above the main office. I drove out to Stanolind's field office at Violet Grove the next morning. I got there early and had just sat down when this big man walked over to me, stuck out his right hand and said: "My name is Reg Knapp, welcome to Stanolind Oil and Gas". I have never forgotten that act of kindness and have used the same technique many times to welcome new employees. Thanks Reg!

I remember two incidents while working with Stanolind. The latter part of October, 1955 was very cold. Alex Mischuck, Dale McKellar and I were working at the Stanolind G-4 battery site and decided to have lunch in the flare pit. When the header house started rattling and banging Dale said: "Get the h—l out of here, they are dewaxing". We scrambled out of the pit just as a huge fireball erupted. We were not burned but the fireball singed the cork stopper on my thermos. The other incident involved plain manual labour. After a large oilspill in the firewall at Stanolind H-3 battery, Ben Harrison and I were assigned the task of loading the crude oil into five gallon pails with scoop shovels, carrying the oil out of the firewall, across the lease and dumping the oil into the flare pit. We did that for five days. The next week Stanolind hired a vacuum truck and finished the job.

On November 5, 1955, I resigned from Stanolind, giving them two weeks notice and started working with Pembina Pipe Line on November 22, 1955. I quickly moved out of my rental basement accommodation on 51st Street and 48th Ave. and into the rent free bunkhouse behind the Pembina offices. Bunkhouse life was unique. Sixteen men per bunkhouse in two-tiered bunk beds, shift working gaugers coming and going 24 hours a day, men in the top bunks sleeping under a sheet, men in the bottom bunk snuggled in sleeping bags and winter boots clustered around the diesel stoves, frozen to the floor. Incidently, everyone respected each others space and everyone got along without incident.

After working six months on the maintenance crew, mostly under the leadership of Dan Greger, I started my training as a gauger under the guidance of Milo Whittaker, Ron Donnely (deceased) and Al Horne. This change required me to drive to the Violet Grove office (west and north of Champion Corner) for shift changes. When Pembina completed their housing project in Lodgepole I moved into the "Bachelor Quarters" gauging in the Lodgepole

Don L'Hirondelle, December 1960, refueling a portable pump

and Cynthia areas. On September 1, 1958 I married Anne Glaister of Millarville and began married life, first in a one-room skid shack at the Carolina Trailer Court and then into one of Pembina's H-Block apartments. (see "Timber Trails & Pipeline Tales"). Living in Lodgepole was a whirlwind of activity, playing hockey in Drayton Valley with the Pembina Pipeliners' senior hockey club, helping build the first softball diamond in Lodgepole, the first skating rink, the baseball diamond, the curling rink and community hall. In addition, I was cubmaster for five years, served as captain and chief on the fire department and Anne was a Girl Guide leader for two years.

Don and Anne L'Hirondelle, Pembina company house

On January 10, 1961 our first child, David John was born at the Drayton Valley Hospital and on November 7, 1962 Patrice Anne was born in Drayton Valley, also.

On October 2, 1963, I was transferred to Drayton Valley and we moved into a Pembina company house vacated by Len Charbonneau. Unfortunately we were not to stay in Drayton Valley very long. After thirteen months I was transferred to Edson. As District Gauger I was responsible for the gathering system which connected five field batteries and Pembina's Truck Depot to the Trans Mountain Pumping Station. We bought a new house and soon became involved in community life, golfing, curling, Lions Club, Fish and Game, baseball, Cubs and coaching minor league hockey.

On January 10, 1966, our third child, Denise Alice, was born. After ten active years in Edson, we were transferred back to Drayton Valley in 1973. We purchased a house at 4517 – 44 Ave. and once again commenced an active community life, curling, golfing, assistant scout master and manager/coach of Pembina's Juvenile Hockey Club.

Pembina's generosity with the "Pipeliners" was unprecedented. They supplied complete uniforms, hockey pants, sticks, pucks, tape and transportation. Pembina provided three company cars and volunteer employees to drive the hockey club to Rimby, Wetaskiwin, Ponoka, Lacombe, Red Deer, Stettler and Drumheller. The young men who played hockey with the Pipeliners have the following people to thank – Sid Mitchell, John Polloway, Joe Balen, Sam Kuzio and Glen Nash. When the Pipeliners folded I became an assistant coach with the midget "Clippers".

Anne was also busy with community activities. She helped in the organization of the Ladies Section of the Drayton Valley Golf Club and got the club to join the Canadian Ladies Golf Association. She curled and was active in the Drayton Valley Figure Skating Club and Anglican Church. She also joined the Legion at this time.

Back L to R, David and Don. Middle, Anne. Front L to R, Denise and Patrick L'Hirondelle

In 1980 I accepted a transfer to Calgary as Corporate Safety Supervisor. Developing a safety program from scratch for Pembina/Western Decalta was a huge task and getting management and foremen to accept the new safety policies and procedures was just as difficult. Today, the safety performance of Pembina Corporation is first class.

In 1990 I made a lifestyle change and transferred to Turner Valley, being responsible for safety at the Diamond Valley Gas Plant, area operations and south/east operations.

We built a new house in Turner Valley and were looking forward to retirement when I attained 40 years of service. Unfortunately this was not to be: I lost the circulation in my left leg and the leg was amputated above the knee in 1992. Other than the artificial leg, Anne and I are both healthy and are enjoying country life in Turner Valley.

David, our eldest son, married Dixie Jacobson from Fort Saskatchewan and they have two daughters, Kyla and Tasha. David is employed with Gibson Petroleum in Edmonton and Dixie with Hewlett Packard.

Patrice, our eldest daughter, married Ken Cormier from Dartmouth, N.S. and they have one daughter, Lauren. Ken is employed with Shell Oil in Calgary and Patrice is a dental assistant with an orthodontic module.

Denise, our youngest married Darrol Graham from Calgary. They have a son Spencer and a daughter, Paige. Darrol is a Jr. High School teacher with the City of Calgary and Denise is a hair stylist.

ERNEST JOHN AND BERNICE LENORA (SWAP) LINDSKOOG

Submitted by Eileen Belva

Ernest John is the son of Sven and Anna Lindskoog – Hughenden, AB. Bernice Lenora is the daughter of Charles and Victoria Swap.

On March 5, 1935, my parents were married in my father's parents' home, by a minister who arrived on skis due to a blizzard. 19 months later, in October of 1936, they packed up their belongings and me, a one month old baby, and moved from Hughenden, Alberta, where they were both raised, to a pre-purchased ¼ Section homestead NE 36-49-7W5, four miles west of the Rocky Rapids Store. They resided there until 1967. From this union were four children: Eileen, Joyce, Carol and Clifford.

In the early years, dad owned a saw mill and worked for a bachelor farmer, Sidney Richards. He also was in the army for three years. Upon returning he did some trucking up the Alaska Highway. He worked for three years as a brakeman on the C.P. Railway and did some barbering. These off farm jobs were necessary to enable them to have money to live, clear the land, build a home, purchase animals and machinery and eventually to purchase another ½ Section of land, in 1946.

Laurel School was being built when they arrived and dad helped and became a school trustee for many years, when Eileen started school. He was the president and one of the founders instrumental in getting rural electrification and the phone to all area residents. He helped build the Rocky Rapids hall and also served on that board for many years. During the years of dad's off farm employment, mother lived on the farm, raising the family, looking after the animals and whatever else she could. She belonged to the Rocky Rapids Ladies Club. They met in a different home each month. During the oil boom, mom took in boarders. As well as farm chores, she always raised a large garden. She canned vegetables and the wild berries she picked. Her three daughters were always groomed to perfection in the lovely dresses she sewed, sometimes into the wee hours.

During dad's years of farming, he clerked for an auctioneer, sold hail insurance and eventually went to work for Mobil Oil. After the morning milking was done, he delivered fresh milk and cream to many homes in Drayton Valley, before arriving for work. During this time, mom enjoyed bowling and joined the Order of the Royal Purple.

In 1967, the farm was sold and mom and dad moved into Drayton Valley. They purchased a tire shop, which they sold in 1969. Dad did various carpentry jobs until 1971, when the home was sold and a tent and trailer park was purchased in Penticton, B.C. This was more demanding than farming and it was sold after two seasons and they moved to Creston, B.C. But the grass is not always greener on the other side of the border, and missing family and friends, they returned to Drayton Valley in 1974, where dad still resides.

Their children, Eileen and Rene Belva, live in Rocky Rapids. They have 2 sons and 1 daughter and 7 grandchildren. Joyce Kurucz (her husband Bill deceased) lives in Edmonton. She has 3 sons and 1 daughter and 7 grandchildren. Carol Brasak (divorced from Andrew) lives in Regina, Saskatchewan. She has 2 sons. Clifford and his wife Christine live in Calgary. They have 1 son and 1 daughter.

Mom passed away on March 17, 1995 in Drayton Valley Extended Care, where she had resided for 2½ years. Dad lives alone and keeps himself busy with his garden, berry picking and yard, playing cards and A & W coffee visits.

BILL AND DENA LITKE

By daughter, Bev Schmidt of Oshawa, Ont.

Dad was born June 10, 1911 at Stony Plain, Alberta. Bill made his way to Rocky Rapids in 1929 or 1930. There Bill filed on a homestead. It cost $1. Bill logged up a one-room cabin and cleared 10 acres, then got the title to this land. In 1996, you could still see where the old cabin had been. The land is SE 7-50-7 W5M.

In 1937 or 38, Dad made his way out to a lumber camp somewhere around Violet Grove. While working there, he got to know some of the men. One was August Schmidt. Dad overheard the men talking about a dance on Saturday night, so Dad and some of the other men went to the dance at the Violet Grove School. That night Dad met my Mom, Dena Schmidt. That was the fall of 1939. December 26, 1940 Mom and Dad were married at my great grandfather's house (Ernst Schmidt). This house was also the first Lutheran Church. Bill and Dena lived in a cabin in my Grandpa & Grandma Schmidt's yard. In the spring of 1941, Mom and Dad moved to Dad's homestead. Dad was getting more land cleared. On October 6, 1941, my brother Arnold was born in Edmonton. This was August and Josie Schmidt's first grandchild. On July 18, 1943 I was born in Edmonton.

Then came WW II and my dad got his call to go serve in the army. Dad took training in Edmonton, Vancouver and Chilliwack, BC. Dad shipped out from Chilliwack on Dec. 26, 1943. For three years mom and the kids spent most of the time at Violet Grove with Grandma and Grandpa Schmidt. My dad came home Feb. 22, 1946 and got his discharge papers on April 14, 1946. Dad had spent 3 years, 3 months less 3 days in the service. Dad's service number was SPRM-1050003.

Dad got a team of horses, a couple of cows given to them by Grandma and Grandpa, a pig and some chickens. So at the end of April, Mom, Dad, Arnold and I went from Violet Grove to Rocky Rapids. Mom said the kids cried for days wanting to go home. When we went down that hill to our homestead, we were in mud up to the hubs of the wagon. Boy, how things have changed. In April of 1996, my aunt, Fern Barnay, and I drove down that same road, and now it is called Beaver Estates.

In 1947, Arnold started school at the Laurel School. In 1949, I also went to the Laurel School. Mom and Dad were having a hard time as the crops had failed for a couple of years.

Dad was away a lot in lumber camps and my mom was trying to farm. Things were going from bad to worse. My dear grandparents came down and when they saw how hard my mom was working, Grandma and Grandpa took us kids home to the Grove. Mom went looking for work, but no one wanted a housekeeper with two kids. By now my beloved Grandpa had died. Grandma was going to live with her sister Mable in Medicine Hat, leaving Mom with two kids, and no job. By this time I was 12 years old, and Arnold was 14. Mom found a housekeeping job out in Saskatchewan, but again they did not want any kids. So Arnold went to BC to our dad and I went to my Aunt Ferns. At that time she was married to Uncle Jim Ross.

I lived with Aunt Fern until I was 16. I packed all my belongings in a suitcase and left the Grove and went to see my Grandma in Medicine Hat. While there, I read in the newspaper that they were looking for young girls to study and become hairdressers, so off I went to Regina. I got my ticket and was looking for a job. My hairdressing teacher told me she found me a job in a small town, so my next stop was Melville, Sask. Now I had my first real job.

One day my girlfriend's brother came to visit her. That is when I met Elmer Schmidt. On November 3, 1962, we were married and in August of 1963 Elmer and I moved out to Oshawa, Ontario, where Elmer worked for over 30 years for G.M. In 1967, we adopted our first daughter Lura. Then in 1968, we adopted our second daughter, Scharon. When my girls were in school, I studied gemology, then went to work in a jewellery store.

I have seen my brother four or five times since I was 12 years old. My mother re-married after my dad passed away in Prince George, BC, on January 19, 1984. My dad spent years in BC, working in a lookout tower. After Mom remarried, she and her husband, Bob Johnston, moved from Sask. back to Medicine Hat. Mom passed away August 19, 1995, at 73 years and 14 days. We laid her to rest in Medicine Hat. Her husband Bob still lives in the Hat.

I have two girls and six grandchildren. This fall my aunt Fern and Uncle Walter are coming down to Ontario. This will be Uncle's first visit to Ontario. I have not seen or heard from my brother since Mom passed away. He lives in BC.

MERLE LITKE (PARKINSON)

The year was 1930 when my mother, stepfather, myself and three siblings moved from Bowsman, Manitoba to Pembina, Alberta – west of Drayton Valley, to begin farming in that area.

My name is Merle and I was eight years old at that time. My brother's name was Charlie and my two sisters were Margaret and Irene. My sibling's ages were 14, 10 and 5 respectively. Our last name was "Parkinson". Our father, Tom Parkinson,

remained in Manitoba. Our step-father's name was Ray Thompson. He and our mother, Hazel Thompson, had two more children, my stepsister and brother, Frances and Harvey. My parents have since passed on, as have my three original siblings, leaving myself, Frances and Harvey.

For the first few years in the Pembina area, we were without a school to attend. We lived here for about five or six years before a school was built for us to go to. We began school at this time, and walked three miles every day to get there. Mrs. Edith Deby was our teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, teaching grades one to eight.

At the age of seventeen, I quit school to go to work in the big city of Edmonton. Approximately one year later, I quit work in the city and returned home to the farm. Two years later, at the age of twenty, I met and married my husband, Les Litke. I met Les in Drayton Valley, and we married soon after. We then moved from Pembina, west to Hinton, Alberta. Les and I had six children. Les passed away in 1964. I have remained in Hinton, as have three of our children. Our other three children have gone from this area, and are living elsewhere. I am presently 78 years of age and remain healthy and happy.

BILL AND BLANCHE LOCKHART

Submitted by Blanche Lockhart

Bill Lockhart was born in 1936, in Rimbey, Alberta. He was raised on a farm. Blanche Lockhart was born in 1938, in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan.

My family moved to Brooks, Alberta in 1950. I was also raised in the country. Bill and Blanche Lockhart were married in Brooks, Alberta, in 1955.

We came to Drayton Valley in the spring/summer of 1956. Bill came first, looking for employment in the oilfield. He found work and I moved here in the summer with our baby daughter. We didn't choose to move here. We were a young couple with a baby. We needed employment and a home, and after many years, found both here. We moved to "Campion Corner", a pipeline construction camp 5-7 miles west of Violet Grove. We lived in this area from 1956 to 1964. During these years we had four more children. In the fall of 1964, we moved our mobile home onto a lot in Drayton Valley, 5036-44 Street. Here we stayed until the family outgrew the mobile home and moved onto our acreage (now Ring Road) in the summer of 1969, and still reside here in 1998.

Shirley and Michael Andrews and their adult children, Angie and Brendan live in Edmonton. Bradley and Alana Lockhart and their adult children, Jeff, Jeremy, Tim and Bob, live in Calgary, Drayton Valley and Taber. Brad and Alana live on an acreage N.E. of Taber. Susan Szigli and her son Eric live in Taber. She and husband David were divorced. She raised her son alone.

Deb and Scott Meston and their sons Corey, Chris and Sean live in the Shepard area on an acreage, east of Calgary. Wendy and Alan Munro and their children Ashley and Cameron live on an acreage in the Oxford Mills, Ontario area.

Bill started his career in 1956-57 as a heavy equipment operator (pipeliner). He worked for local companies in the area, for 24 years. In 1980, he became owner/operator of B.L. Trenching Ltd. and is still employed as of 1998. A long career!

From 1955 to 1975 I was a homemaker. During the next 10 years I worked full time for a department store and part time for B.L. Trenching Ltd. In 1985, I quit working in the store and started working full time for B.L. Trenching Ltd. In the early 1970's, when the children were home, we had livestock and planted a large vegetable garden.

Since the family have left, Bill looks after his horses. We enjoy our recreational nature trails in our back woods, look after our large yard, trees, shrubs, flowers and a small vegetable garden. We also enjoy holidays, either by plane (tours) or travel in our motor home. We hope to do a lot more of this in the future.

For the first few years, we lived in mobile homes, small 16', bigger 32' and biggest 55'. We had power, but no water or sewer. We had an outhouse, so we lived and worked with all the inconveniences this brings. Bill worked long hours, sometimes weeks (around and away from home) with few or no days off. However, we did manage to leave Drayton Valley a few times a year (Christmas and Easter) and maybe a few trips to Edmonton and Jasper, for holidays and to visit family. I felt very isolated here at first, but kept busy enough not to dwell on it.

The family grew up, went to school, got married and all left home and Drayton Valley. Bill and I are still here, presently employed with B.L. Trenching Ltd. as of 1998.

ANNE LOOK

Born in England, Mrs. Look came to Canada before 1930, with her first husband, Eward Boodle. They homesteaded in the Violet Grove district. Mr. Boodle died when their two small sons, one of whom is living today, were very young.

Some years later Mrs. Boodle married Leo Look and a daughter was born of that union.

Mrs. Look will be remembered for her skill and originality in the many handicrafts that claimed her interest. She was a member of the Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter Day Saints for whom she worked faithfully. She was a member of the Senior Citizens Club and the organization at the Wishing Well Apartments, where she was one of the first residents.

Funeral services were held in Edmonton on November 1, 1982 for Anne. Mrs. Look is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Ted and Helen Boodle of Whitehorse, Y.T., one daughter and son-in-law, Edna and Allan Smith, four grandchildren, Ted and Robin Boodle and Christian and Heather Smith. Also a sister, Mrs. May Pearson, in England.

GARY & MARY ANN LORENZ

Written by Garry Lorenz

The first time that I remember travelling to Drayton Valley was in the summer of 1951 to attend my aunt's wedding. It was in the old Anglican church and, from what I remember, it was a very lovely affair. I remember asking my mother why in the world anyone would want to live way out in the bush with nothing around but more bush. I think that there were a total of five houses, the Anglican Church, a hall, and a very small store on the corner of what is now 50 St. and 50 Ave. I don't remember there being very much else. We had come down the old Moon Lake road from the thriving metropolis of Evansburg where we lived at the time.

The next time I came down the old Moon Lake road to Drayton Valley, was in October of 1955. I came down with my father and his orchestra to play for my very first dance with the Lorenz Orchestra. By then Drayton Valley had grown immensely. We played in the old Elks Hall and it was quite a dance. From then on, the trips to Drayton Valley became quite regular. Each time we went to play for a dance, it seemed like the whole town had grown some more. It wasn't long until there were new schools, houses, businesses, and of course the mud when it rained. I remember a few nights that it was doubtful whether we would get back to Evansburg as the road wasn't very good until they completed Highway 57, which eventually became part of Highway 22. In those days, I remember that when we used to come over Kos' hill, it would almost seem like there were a thousand little fires all over the countryside. I later learned that they were the flares of the new oil wells.

When I finished school, I immediately came to Drayton Valley to get into the "BIG oilfield money". It seemed like I went to every retail business, oil company, service company and construction company that there was in Drayton Valley and I still couldn't find any work. Eventually, I did find some work, but not in the area and I was away for four or five years. About 1964, I was transferred to Edmonton and started playing for dances for dad and his band again. We played somewhere almost every weekend. Many of these dances were in dear old Drayton Valley again. By this time, Drayton Valley had grown to be quite a town. I think there were about 3,000 people living there then.

It wasn't until April of 1973, that I came to Drayton Valley to live and work. I started working for T.M. Electric and Cardium Plumbing and I stayed there for the next two years. By this time I had gotten married to Mary Ann and we brought with us to Drayton Valley our two small girls, Kerry and Trena. In 1975, I started working for D.V Meter Ltd. and worked there until January of 1994.

During our years in Drayton Valley, we became involved in many activities. I served on the boards of the United Church and the association for Community Living, all Saints Anglican Church and the early Kindergarten Association. Mary Ann helped out with the ladies' groups of the churches we went to and worked with the hospital auxiliary. We both spent time visiting with folks at the Senior Lodge and at the extended care facility when it opened.

The 23 years that we lived in Drayton Valley were certainly some of the most wonderful years that we've spent anywhere. We developed many friendships over the years and still get to see some of the folks who, like us, have moved away. We dearly miss our friends in Drayton Valley and look forward to visiting whenever we can. Drayton Valley, over the years, was one of the most progressive towns that I've had the pleasure to live in. When I look back to the first time that I laid eyes on that area, I can hardly believe that it has developed so much and that it has become such a wonderful place for people to bring up their families.

Mary Ann and I now reside in Westlock and Trena is presently living with us. Kerry, and her husband Troy, and their little boy, Cody, and little girl, Cadence, live in Calgary. We all have a very dear and soft spot in our heart for Drayton Valley.

CAROLYN (LYN) BURROWS LUCHAK

Lyn moved to Drayton Valley in 1954 with her Mom, and Dad (Mary & Roy Burrows). Her Dad was employed with Mobil Oil. She attended school in Drayton Valley from grades 1 to 3. Her Dad was transferred to Calgary where she attended Briar Hill School until the family was transferred to Paris. She, along with other Canadian children of the armed forces and oil companies went to the NATO school where they received their lessons in French for half a day and the other half day in the curriculum of their particular country.

On returning to Canada, and Drayton Valley, Lyn attended grades 6-12, then she went to the Royal Alexandra Hospital School of Nursing. She completed her training there and then took Nursing Administration at the University of Alberta. She married Stanley Luchak in 1970. He also had received his schooling in Drayton Valley, where they met in Grade six. Lyn worked at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Ward and later became the supervisor of the Women's Pavilion. Stanley was attending the University of Alberta at this time and he received his B.Ed from there. He worked for Coopers and Lybrand CA's.

In 1974, Christine Mary Luchak, was born, and shortly after they moved to Rimbey to join the family automotive business. Lyn began nursing at the Rimbey Hospital part time. Steven Peter Luchak arrived at the Rimbey Hospital, in 1976. Lyn returned to nursing full tine when the children were a little older and has continued to work there ever since. She is now Acute Care Coordinator for the Rimbey Hospital. The family automotive business has now been sold and Stanley is now an Investment Advisor with the Financial Planning Group with offices in Rimbey.

Their children, Christine and Steve, are now continuing their education in Calgary.

PAUL AND PAULINE LYSAK

By Les Mason

Paul and Pauline Lysak and their five children; Alex, Steve, Nick, Annie and Mancy came to Canada on April 26, 1937. Later, two more sons, Walter and William were born.

They settled in the Round Valley area on NW-1-51-7-5. It was located approximately 10 miles north, 2 miles east and ½ mile north of Drayton Valley or from Tomahawk, 9 miles west and ½ mile north. They farmed there until they retired in 1966 and moved to Edmonton.

Their son Steve and wife Leah (Peggy) farmed the home place until Steve passed away in December 1996.

DAN AND DOLORES MACKENZIE

The MacKenzie family arrived in Drayton Valley in March, 1963. Dan worked for Ace Construction and came to town to work for two weeks. Thirty four years later, they are still here. One of Dan's first jobs was to help with the construction of the Brazeau Power Dam. He and his crew cleared brush and strung power lines.

Dan, Delores and their two daughters, Ronda and Kallie moved into the Pembina Parkways Trailer Park. They lived in a 8 x 33 foot trailer. In 1966, when they determined that they were going to stay awhile, they took on the job of managing the trailer park. The trailer park had nine cabins and several trailers. Dan's job took him out of town on weekdays, so Delores managed the day-to-day operations of the trailer park. It was located centrally on 50th Street close to all the amenities that Drayton Valley had to offer. The school, downtown stores, hotel, skating/curling rinks, and swimming pool were all within a two block radius.

Delores recalls that in the early to mid sixties the population was about 5,000. In comparison to current day the size has not changed that much. The real change has been housing, Drayton Valley has grown from a "skid shack" town to a town with many attractive neighbourhoods where community is not just a place, but a way of living.

In 1973 the family moved to an acreage just east of town. Cattle, pigs, chickens and a huge garden quickly replaced the trailer park duties. Delores sold cream and eggs to several businesses and homes in Drayton Valley. The Beckett family farmed the quarter which separated the acreage from town. This quarter has now been developed and is the Aspenview area. The Drive-In theatre was north of our house and a well situated lawnchair on the pig-barn roof was the recipe for a free movie.

Ronda and Kallie, graduated from High School in the late seventies. Ronda worked for the Twilight Bowl, and Kallie for the Cardium Theatre/Drive-in while going to school. Kallie married Ron Price from Camrose and they have two daughters, Kortney and Breanne. Both girls have established homes in Edmonton and have careers with the Provincial Government.

Dan retired in 1994 after 40 years with Ace Construction. They continue to raise pigs on the acreage which is quickly being surrounded by new subdivisions. It looks like there will be more changes in the future or they will have the first pig-farm in the middle of town.

JOHN AND CECELIA MACKENZIE

Written by Ken & Mary MacKenzie

John R. MacKenzie married Cecelia Rose on November 27, 1934 in Vermilion, Alberta. In January of 1942 they left the dry dusty area of Vermilion for the green grass of Drayton Valley. The MacKenzies were dairy farmers in Vermilion and moved their enterprise to Drayton Valley via train to Entwistle. For the next two days the cattle were driven from Entwistle to Drayton Valley with the assistance of Frances Law and Albert Williams. In minus 60 degrees weather, Cecelia and their three children,

Kenneth, Margaret & John Jr. arrived by bus to their new home at the Bennett Farm presently the site of Sekuras Auction Mart. Their home was a modified granary.

John and Cecelia MacKenzie

Frances and Barabra Law, John's sister and brother-in-law, helped set up the dairy facility. Water was in short supply at the farm. The cattle had to be driven for one mile to the Law farm each day for water. All of the farming was done by horses. There were many horses, maybe 18. All the field work was done with horse power. The cream was delivered to the local store and was picked up by Milt Jensen Trucking and hauled to Edmonton. Shortly after the MacKenzie's were established in their new home John was called up to Royal Canadian Air Force and went to work for his country. He became a corporal in the military police.

In July 1943, Cecelia gave birth to the first set of twins, Barbara & Isobel, in Drayton Valley in a home delivery, with the assistance of the local district nurse, Miss Aling. Cecelia's days were full as she milked the cows with the help of Frances Law. Shortly after the twins were born John was given a compassionate leave to help with the family and the farming enterprise. He still had to work as a truck driver hauling lumber from the local saw mills to Edmonton. Sometimes he drove a greyhound passenger bus between Drayton Valley and Edmonton. In 1945 John brought the first rubber tired tractor to Drayton Valley, a new W 6 International.

Summer entertainment was participating in the local picnics which always included a baseball game. John was the back catcher. The children looked forward to the picnic activities. John also coached a young people's baseball team. The winter months was curling season. John Sr. skipped his own team. Margaret, Isobel and Barbara were good curlers. Horse shoes was another competition that John excelled in.

Ceceila participated in the Anglican Church W.I. Both John and Cecelia were active in the community hall society. In later years they were both active in the Legion Hall. John was the school trustee for the area. John & Kenneth ran a 16 mm move projector show during the early days of the oil industry in the community hall.

Mack & Mann Trucking was started by John SR. & his partner Chuck Mann. At that time their main work was hauling sand and frac mud to the rigs and later rig moving and tank moving. Ceceila did a lot of the dispatching of the trucks as well as tend the family.

Her garden was the envy of the town. Baking, cooking and canning were ways to relax for Cecelia. The trucks were later sold to his son John Jr.

Power came to Drayton Valley in 1954. The kerosene and high test lamps were put away, as now we had electric lights. Natural gas came into town about the same time.

In 1954 when oil was discovered in the Drayton Valley area, John's sister, Isobel Sherman and her husband Darkie (Ralph) moved to Drayton Valley to be part of the working force which was very abundant here. John's brother, Allister worked in the oil field here. As well at this time it was easy to get employment . John's, sister, Margaret also moved here and worked in the Drayton Valley Hospital as a nurse. Because of the wealth of employment, the life styles of all families changed. There was an influx of people in Drayton Valley. Skid shacks and small mobile homes were every where. Drayton Valley was chosen to be the center of the Pembina Oil Field in 1954. John & Cecelia subdivided their farm into lots. These lots were controlled by the provincial government and sold for $ 50.00 each.

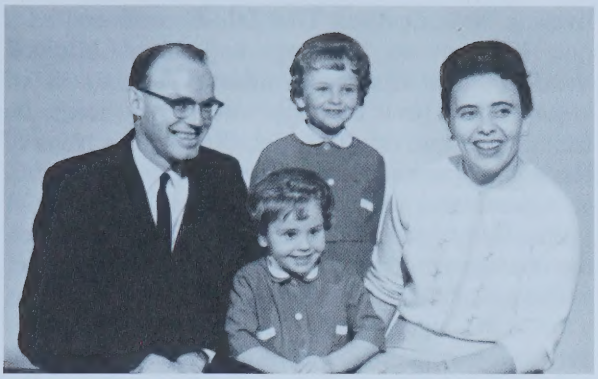
In 1956 the MacKenzies built a new home which still stands on the intersection of 50th. St and 54th. Ave. It was commonly known as the center of social activities. This home hosted many adlib parties. They spent their retirement in this home and Cecelia still resides there. John passed away on May 22, 1995. Cecelia is enjoying her retirement with her friends playing Bingo.

DON MCKENZIE

Submitted by Marian McKenzie

Don McKenzie came to Drayton Valley from Edmonton in 1954 to start a men's wear in the hotel. At the time he came, there was very little in the way of accommodation. He and Howard Pickup, the pharmacist, slept in sleeping bags in the unfinished upstairs of the hotel for some months. Later, Don lived in a small trailer.

I came to Drayton Valley in 1955 to do relief



Don, Laurie, Heather and Marian McKenzie

work for Howard Pickup, The drug store was next to the men's wear, and Don and I began dating. We later married and had two daughters, Heather and Laurie. They had all their pre-secondary schooling in Drayton Valley, and the went on to the U. of A. Heather took medicine and Laurie education. The girls are married and have three children each. Both live and work in Edmonton.

Don was very active in community affairs. He served on town council and was instrumental in getting a hospital for Drayton Valley. He served as Chairman of the Hospital Board until his death in 1973. He was a charter member of the Lion's Club, and a member of the Masonic Lodge.

I have been active in pharmacy throughout the years, working in drug stores and as hospital pharmacist until my retirement in 1990. And I still live at 4509-52 St., Drayton Valley.

The mud in Drayton Valley was and is, I believe, unique. It could pull the boots off your feet. I keep thinking it should be patented for some useful purpose.

KENNETH AND MARY MACKENZIE

Kenneth B. MacKenzie married Mary Barbara Vowk on January 7, 1961. Kenneth worked at a supply store in Drayton Valley called Jones & Laughlin and at the Cardium Theatre in the evenings running the 35mm projectors for the movies. Mary worked at Pembina and Valley Drug store for Mr. Pickup and Alf Armstrong. Ken and Mary bought a house in town. They lived there for two years. They bought a farm in 1962 and moved to the farm in the fall of 1963.

By this time Jane was born. The roads were narrow and bumpy and slippery when wet. There was no telephone at the farm. When the baby got sick it meant driving into town and just walking into the doctor's office without an appointment.

Kenneth decided to go into dairy and pigs and black Angus cows as well. Mary did the accounting

L to R, Mary, Kenneth Jr., Kenneth Sr., Jane; Centre, Betty; Bottom, Dorothy MacKenzie

for Mack & Mann Trucking to supplement the farm income.

Soon Betty Ann was born in November of 1964. The year, 1969, started off right with a new girl, Dorothy. Then the next year Kenneth Jr. was born.

Now with four children the family life on the farm was full of work and play. Everyone had duties to perform. There were dairy, pigs, laying birds, and beef cattle. Oh yes, and Jane had rabbits. It was Kenneth Sr.'s drive that got the children to exhibit in the local fair and in the different cattle shows around Alberta.

In the dry spring of 1968, a brush fire came from the south of the farm and burnt everything in sight. You could hear the roar of the fire a mile away as the wind moved it along. Brush piles that had been only cut and piled in March of that year went up like match sticks. The forestry had to water down the house, barn, and chicken coup. Fortunately we did not lose any buildings.

The following year Great Aunt Margaret MacKenzie was dying of cancer and she wanted to go and see her homeland, Scotland, Mary was elected to go with her. That meant boarding out the children. Jane and Betty went to stay with Roman and Dorothy. Mary's sister Sonia looked after Dorothy who was only four months old.

While Mary and Auntie were away our hog barn, feed shed, and pump house which housed the milking equipment burned down.

Mary went to work full time at the Town of Drayton Valley in the accounting department that fall.

During 1968 and 1969, Kenneth had put his beef herd on ROP testing. Kenneth applied for a program through the Lacombe Research Station whereby if you put your animals through a test then

they supplied you with semen from various breeds. So the farm soon had many cross breeds of cattle. The Angus herd was crossed with Charolais, Limousin, Simmental, Chianina. There were a lot of Caesarean sections from the Charolais, and Simmental. The Chianina walked over all the fences.

In the early 1970's, Kenneth, along with his father, imported two Blonde D'Aquitaine bulls, Harmonieux and Herbalt, and one full blood heifer, Gelatine from France. To do this, the farm had to breed everything Blonde D'Aquitaine for five years. So now the herd was changing from black to blonde.

That fall, cows were purchased at $ 500.00 each and by spring the market fell out. Cows were now selling $125.00 each. Now what to do? Selling was out of the question at these prices. Good management and persistence brought the farm inventory up to 600 animals by 1978. Prices came up a bit. Now the memory of what you paid for the animals was fading. However, at the same time some, had to be sold because space was now a factor. So this was the year to sell. This was also the year that Mary quit working for the Town of Drayton Valley, and Ken and Mary opened Mary's House of Fabrics. Now all the family had employment. The three girls learned to sew. Even young Kenneth had to have a sewing machine. Kenneth Sr. learned the art of selling and fixing sewing machines. Mary started 4-H Stitch Rippers, a sewing club, which she lead for seven years. She organized and lead the Drayton Valley Button Poppers, another sewing club, for three years. Kenneth Sr. lead a 4-H garden club, Field crop Club, Beef Club, and a multi club. He got his 20 year plaque. Kenneth Sr. was also a member of the Easyford community centre for a number of years.

Jane married Grant Chittick in 1981. When Raymond was born she moved to Wildwood.

During all these years the MacKenzies had many exchange students from Korea, and Indonesia, to work on the farm. Betty enjoyed these young people so much she decided to join Canada World Youth in 1982. She and her partner went to Ontario for three months and then to Sir Lanka for 3 months. Meanwhile at home Kennth Sr. decided that the remaining family would sell everything but the land and go to New Zealand and work on a farm in hopes of immigrating there. So Kenneth Sr., Mary, Dorothy and Kenneth Jr. spent six months away from home. They toured Fiji, Hawaii, and lived in New Zealand. In April of 1983, they returned home to Drayton Valley. Jane and Grant had a little girl this year and they named her Crystal Marie.

The Fabric Store continued to run while we lived in New Zealand. That fall Kenneth started a one hour photo business and hired Michael Vanderleest to operate it under the business of "Mary's One Hour Foto". It wasn't long before he came home one day and said, "I bought a bakery" He leased space in the Derrick Mall and learned to be a successful journeyman baker. He baked for 11 years. Betty graduated from Olds college fashion merchandise program in 1985. The following year, in July, she married James Schulz. Betty worked as a taylor in Calgary. Later she was a travelling salesperson for a manufacturer of notions for fabric and hobby stores. She now has three children: Chantelle, Christopher and Dwight.

Dorothy married Harvey Alonso in February of 1988. Harvey was employed by Mary's One Hour Foto and Dorothy ran the fabric store and taught sewing and serging courses. They have three children: Melisa, Brittany, and Ian.

Kenneth Jr. married Janina Schwindt, in July of 1992. Kenneth went to Olds college and so did Janina. Kenneth took beef production and Janina took a business course. Kenneth runs a beef farm with his father and Janina works in accounting for Alpine Environmental in Drayton Valley. Kenneth also trains and raises border collies and horses. Their son, Coy Quinn, was bom January 24th, 1997.

Jane went back to school in 1987 and attended Camrose Lutheran College for 3 years in Education. She then switched to beef production at Olds College and graduated in 1992. She worked for the M.D. of Brazeau as a weed inspector for three years. Later she started a farm of her own in the Easyford area.

Mary went into real estate in 1988. She worked with NRS, Farmers and Ranchers, then back to NRS and eventually when Ken sold the bakery Ken and Mary started their own real estate company called Brazeau Realty Ltd.

DON AND RUTH MACKINNON

The Donald MacKinnon family moved to Cynthia, Alberta in 1957. Don was foreman of the Cynthia Oil Field for Texaco Exploration. Our daughters, Joan and Barbara went to the Lodgepole Elementary School by school bus.

In 1960 the MacKinnon family moved to Drayton Valley. Here we lived a few houses away from the Pickups and next door to Sylvia and Bill Copeman. Our whole family was very happy in Drayton Valley. Our daughters enjoyed the skating rink and the swimming pool very much. I enjoyed my association with the Drayton Vally Oil Wives. Here I met many capable and interesting women. Don MacKinnon enjoyed being on the Executive of

the Committee that built the golf course just north of Drayton Valley.

In 1965, Texaco Exploration transferred Don to the Edmonton office. Daughter Joan finished high-school in Edmonton and then attended the University of Edmonton and graduated as a physio-therapist. She now teaches physiotherapy at Edmonton's University. Joan is married to Jonathan Loomis, a primary school Principal. They have one son, Jeffrey, who is now attending McEwan College in Edmonton.

Our second daughter, Barbara, also went to the University of Edmonton and graduated in Occupational Therapy. Barbara married Edmontonian Boyd McBride. They now live in Ottawa. They have two adopted children. Luke is now 8 and Beth is 4. Barbara is now director of a Health Unit and her husband Boyd works for Code, an International Organization.

Ruth worked as a teacher for sixteen years in Edmonton and Calgary. Don and Ruth retired in 1983. We have enjoyed some foreign travel in our retirement. Don has also enjoyed playing golf. Ruth has enjoyed hiking in the mountains. We have also enjoyed our winter trips to Arizona.

ALFRED AND OPAL MADSEN

Alfred Madsen was born in Frederikskaven, Denmark, on May 29, 1899. At the age of 24 years he immigrated to Canada landing in Melford, Saskatchewan. He was unable to speak the English language and had only two dollars in his pocket.

Fortunately he met a Danish couple who took him in and were kind enough to give him work and later helped him to find another job. He worked around Melford and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan and then on into The Pas in Manitoba, where he worked in a logging camp. From there he went to Drumheller and Edmonton, Alberta and on west to McKay working in a logging camp hauling ties. Getting tired of working out, he went into Edmonton and filed for a homestead a half-mile north o the Drayton Valley town site. He cut brush and cleared land during the summer and then did chores for William Sjerdal at Camrose, Alberta during the winter in exchange for Mr. Sjerdal to do some breaking of land for him.

One day he had been burning brush. Thinking he had the fire out, he took off to visit a neighbour. When he returned home he found his house on fire, leaving him with a few of his belonging. Now he had to build himself another house. Getting tired of this kind of work, he went into Camrose and got work with William Chant on his farm.

He stared attending the Pentecostal Church in Camrose. That is where he met his bride to be, Opal Huckabay. Opal was a girl from Saskatchewan. She was born in Vanscay, Saskatchewan, August 17, 1907. In 1933 she moved to Camrose with Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Groven and family who she had been working for at the time. Opal and Alfred were married on November 28, 1935.

Alfred and Herman Berkard rented Mr. Chant's farm for a year. During the year, December 20, 1936 a baby boy, Alfred Leroy, was born into the Madsen family. That fall Mr. Chant decided he wanted to rent his farm to another party. The Madsen's were on the move. Alfred thought that Drayton Valley would be the place to be. One morning, he jumped into his Chevy car and took off for Drayton Valley to make arrangements for a house to live in which turned out to be Mr. and Mrs. Bjulands house, and it happened to be empty. He also made arrangements with Harvey Morrow, who was doing trucking at that time to come and haul his belongings back to the Valley. In a couple of days Mr. Morrow was there loading up. He and Alfred started back for Drayton Valley stopping in Edmonton at a second hand store to purchase some furniture: a bed for $10.00, dresser for $15.00, a chair for $6.00 and a table for $10.00. On arriving at the house, they unloaded the furniture. Alfred then made arrangements with Benny Shirley to come and stay in the house until we arrived.

In a couple of days we loaded the remainder of our belongings into the car, and early on the morning of April 6, 1937 we took off for our new home in Drayton Valley with only $300.00 in cash. Stopping in Edmonton to buy a few groceries, we got along fine until we reached the road going south to Drayton Valley. We got stuck several times, and wore out a pair of car chains. One place, at Round Valley, Mr. Catt was kind enough to pull us out. It was hard going but we made it. The snow was melting and the roads were soft and muddy. We arrived home about 8 p.m., taking 8 hours from the highway to home, (Bjuland's house).

Now, as we were going to start farming, Alfred had to get some equipment. He went to an auction sale and bought a walking plow for $5.00; 3 old horses at $20.00 each and 3 old sets of harness for $10.00, which had been mended several times but was usable. We farmed Bjuland's farm, a few acres along with Charlie Windom's few acres, also a few acres on Mike Olson's pace. We farmed there for about 2 years.

We had to have milk for the baby, so one of us would walk over to Ole Topstad's, about a mile south, and get a ten pound syrup pail of milk for 25 cents. Finally, Alfred made arrangements with Mr.

Topstad to cut brush for him for a cow. Later, he cut brush for Pete Anderson for two more cows. He also took care of three or four cows for another man for the winter. Then we started milking, churning butter and selling it for our groceries.

On September 17, 1938 another baby boy, Elmer Levern, arrived to join the family.

Our next move was to Newton Dodson's farm, half mile north of Drayton. We rented his farm for two years, and then had to move again as Alfred Lainchbury was moving in to take over the farm.

While living there Mr. Hystad and his sons brought in a sawmill. As Alfred had timber on his homestead, he gave the Hystads the contract to take out the timber and saw it into lumber. Alfred needed a tractor so he traded some lumber to Helmer Ramstad for an old Minneapolis tractor and with the rest of his old machinery he could get his work done more quickly. He also gave some lumber to the Church of God in Drayton to build a kitchen on to the parsonage. While we were living there another son arrived. William Kenneth was born, June 17, 1940 a brother for Leroy and Elmer.

As we had to move again, Alfred went over to his homestead about half a mile away to fix up the house so that we could move in. On March 7, 1942, we loaded up and moved again to the homestead. Later Alfred took some lumber and built a big room on to the house, as it was small. We lived here two years renting land here and there.

One day, Aaron Bennet came along and wanted to buy the place so as to get the remainder of the timber to build houses, as he was a carpenter. He sold us the farm, a quarter section, one mile south of Drayton, taking the homestead in exchange. There was 55 broke on it. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet moved into Edmonton. We moved to the farm on April 4, 1944. We lived there, renting more land from Newton Dodson one mile south, and some from Stanley Pickavance and Chubby Brownbill. We were then renting these places for about two years. We lost these places when Ruth Dodson and Joe Pawluk married and moved on to the Dodson quarter. Robert Johnson and Isabel Lainchbury married and Robert bought the Brownbill and Pickavance farm and moved there.

We rented land from H.T. Deby for three years. We were getting along fine until we were dried out one year and drowned out the next. We also lost a good crop of grain by hail while on the Dodson quarter. We had lots of tough luck but kept pressing on. We could not afford help with the haying, so Leroy, 8 years old and his mother, helped put up the hay. One night it looked like rain. Alfred said we had to get this stack topped off or else the hay would spoil. We just got home at a quarter to twelve midnight. Opal fed the boys and put them to bed and Alfred milked the cows. We put the milk away and the rest of the chores had to be left until morning. Alfred bought a new Chevy truck and to help make the payments, he went to work at a logging camp for Fred Urchyshyn and Danny Bills, skidding logs. And of course Leroy wanted to quit school and go out to work too. He was sixteen years old by now. He got a job out at the mill, too. He shovelled sawdust away from the mill. Alfred and Leroy would go to camp Sunday nights and come home again on Saturday nights after work. They were getting along well until the mill broke down. They then, had to move the sawdust with a tractor, and of course, as Leroy wanted to get out of the way stepped into the chute that took the slabs down into the fire. Accidentally, the release let go taking Leroy down into the fire with his shovel in his hand. That was January 26, 1954. He did not realize the danger because the release had never let go before. The men had a hard time getting Leroy out of the fire and of course he was dead. Besides losing our son we lost a good cow and two hundred baby chicks. We could have taken this loss if we hadn't lost Leroy. This was the end of camp work for Alfred.

Elmer and Kenneth were going to school and helping Mother with the chores, night and morning. Later Elmer decided he wanted to get a job, so he applied for work in the Drayton Valley Groceteria store up town, working after school and on Saturdays. One Saturday night after work his boss took him out for coffee and didn't get home until about midnight. Of course we were worried for his safety. He got tired of walking to get to and from work, so he bought himself an old car, which did not prove very satisfactory. He worked there for several months.

Kenneth took a notion, too, that he wanted to quit school and get a job. He was only sixteen years old at the time. He got a job with Flint Engineering, one half mile south of the farm, helping to build a battery at a gas plant. It was the same battery Fred Kaarsmaker later attended for twenty-three years. Kenneth worked his way up to where he was asked to manage a crew of men, but he would rather work than be boss. When Flint finished there they moved on. Kenneth got another job, running a backhoe for Molor Plumbing, covering water lines etc. When Molor moved, Kenneth got a job at a filling station serving gas. He bought himself a little Volkswagen car. Later he got a bad deal when he sold it.

In 1961 he met Lillian Langman, a nurse from Saskatchewan, who had come to Drayton Valley to nurse in the hospital here. On December 28, 1963

they were married. Later on Kenneth got a job with City Services attending batteries and oil wells. Lillian kept nursing in the hospital. On May 10, 1965, a son, Mark, was born. Then on May 30,1967 a daughter Sharalee, was born. Lillian didn't go back to work until the children started school, then Grandmother Madsen looked after them when school was out until Daddy or Mamma got home.

Kenneth was also on the Fire Department in Drayton form 1963 to 1973. In 1972 Kenneth took sick but kept on working. He was in and out of the hospital until a few months before he passed away on October 16, 1974.

Lillian had to go to work full time now and grandma Madsen helped out again giving the children their lunch at noon and taking care of them until their mother arrived home. Lillian stayed a widow until she met Joe Danek from Hinton, Alberta. They were married on August 12, 1978. Then Joe moved the family to Hinton. Joe was a widower with a married son and a married daughter and a thirteen-year-old son, David.

When Elmer passed his grade eleven he decided to quit school for a while and go into electrical work with George and Floyd Allenbrand, then go back and finish his grade twelve. When he finished and became a journeyman in electricity, he just kept on working for the Allenbrand's. He trained Frank Kynoch and Jerry Huska under himself.

Elmer met Maxine Berg from Saskatchewan and on April 21, 1960 they were married. He also worked as an electrician for Mr. Featherstone. Later he was an electrician for Pembina Pipe Line. He was also on the Fire Department here in Drayton Valley. He joined in 1959 and became captain in 1964 and Fire Chief from 1971-1978.

In 1975 he decided he wanted to move out of town on an acreage two and a half miles north and west of Drayton. He built a big house and moved into it in March 1977. He did most of the building himself. Elmer resigned from the fire department but kept on working for Pembina Pipe.

In 1978, he wanted a business of his own so he bought the Ink Pot printing shop which was for sale. Maxine had been working for the manager at the time, Lorraine Hillman. Elmer quit Pembina Pipe and they are still running the Ink Pot today.

They have two children, Levern born December 20, 1961 and Kathleen born August 31, 1966. They are a happy little family.

Now as the boys were married and moved away it was too much for Alfred and Opal to carry on farming alone. Besides, Opal was baby sitting up town, walking a mile when it was too cold for the truck to start. One day Wendy Sekura came along and wanted to buy the farm. He was an auctioneer. We sold him the farm and built a house in the town of Drayton Vallely. We had an auction sale May 28, 1966 and in August 1966 we moved into our new house.

Alfred was janitor at Mcleods store and did some janitor work for a chiropractor, Mr. Heater. He also was janitor for the Church of God. Opal kept up her babysitting until about 1972. Her last job was for Audrey Grieb (a teacher) here in Drayton Valley. She also babysat the Madsen grandchildren.

We had a tough go of it many times, but the Lord has been good to us through our trials and sorrows. He has gone through them with us. "Praise His Name". We serve a Good God.

FRANK MADDOCK

Francis William Maddock was a long-time pioneer and resident of this district. He was born in Atherstone, England on June 13, 1893. He came to Canada with his parents in 1912 and they homesteaded in the area southeast of Entwistle. This became their home for the next 73 years.

He was active in the community in the early days serving on the Municipal Council of Rocky Rapids and becoming trustee for the local Brightwood School.

Mr. Maddock always continued his interest and concern in education of students. He was elected to the position of Chairman of the Stony Plain School division. He served these duties for 32 years. Mr. Maddock played an active part in upgrading the schools in the Drayton Valley and Entwistle areas and was honored by having the Drayton Valley High School named after him in 1960. He was always very aware and extremely proud of this honor.

Mr. Maddock was also active in the promotion of agriculture both locally and on the nation scene. He was a director of the Northern Alberta Dairy Pool in 1938 and served as president from 1943 until he retired in 1969. Under Mr. Maddock's leadership, NADP grew from one creamery to 30 creameries, cheese factories and milk plants. For 20 years, he was an active member of the National Dairy Farmers of Canada and served on the Executive council from 1949 until 1966.

Mr. Maddock served as president of the Entwistle and Pembina Valley Agricultural Society, president of Entwistle and Evansburg Rural Telephone Companies, board chairman of Brightwood School district, and councilor or Rocky Rapids municipality.

In 1974, Mr. Maddock was named to the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame for outstanding contributions to education and agriculture in Alberta.

Even though Mr. Maddock received many awards for what he had done in the area, he said the greatest joy he received was in seeing the students of Drayton Valley going to school in this town, from grade one to the completion of high school.

FLORENCE MALCOLM

By Florence Malcolm (nee Haggerty)

I was born on the homestead NE 17-49-8 W5 in October, 1931. Mom had moved there from Wildwood (where Clarence was born), with my sister Gertrude, brothers Freddie and Clarence in the spring after Dad had finished building the cabin. A Mrs. Jonzon stayed with Mom a few days at this time to help with the new baby. As well as a good team of horses they had a Ford car at this time.

We had a fairly carefree life; with Mom teaching up the three "R's", doing the usual wood, water chores and picking strawberries, raspberries and blueberries to supplement the garden produce, milk, butter and eggs.

Back Row, Alice, holding one twin, James or Len; Freddie, Trudy, Fred Haggerty, and the other twin. Middle Row, Clarence, Florence, Morley, Front, Hazel and Lois

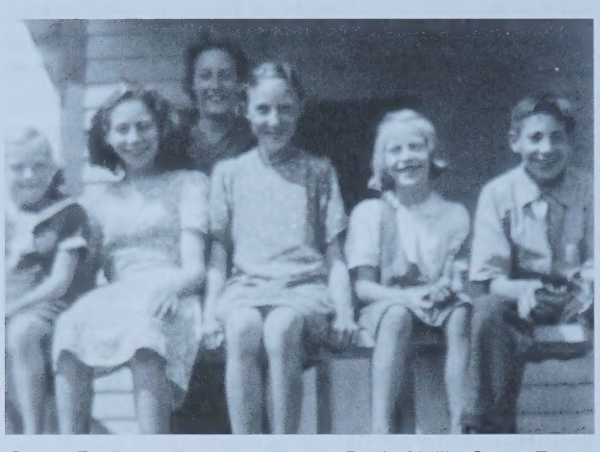
By October 1940, Clover Trail School #4829 of the Stony Plain School Division had been built. Clarence, Morley and myself started school with Miss Audie B. Rice teaching. We had an "Inspector" Mr. Hollingshead come from Stony Plain once in awhile to give us tests to see how we were doing.

We moved and went to Violet Grove School one year with Mr. Ernest Forsythe teaching. He also owned one of the stores there.

We again attended Clover Trail School after moving to the "Pawluk" place NW 15-49-8 W5 with Mrs. Marion Medd teaching.

Miss Mabel Vincent was the next teacher. I'm not sure when she started, but was there in 1945. Both Lois and Hazel would be going to school by this time.

At some point, I became the janitor of the school. This involved carrying water approximately ½ mile from Chamberlains, cleaning the school and getting the fire going before the other children got there. We had a barrel type heater, which heated the building up fairly quickly most days. The pay for this was $6 a month. At the last, I believe it was $12 per month.



Clover Trail school 1944 or 1943, Back; Nellie Case, Front; Babara Gregg, Florence Haggerty, Lois Haggerty, Pearl Case, Lois Haggerty, and Clarence Haggerty

Mrs. Georgia Wollschlager was the last teacher at Clover Trail. She rode or drove her horse. The other teachers all boarded at Chamberlain's.

We would take the wagon and all go blueberry picking towards Big Beaver Creek and the Pembina River. Later, when we were older, some of us would go on horseback with big pails hanging on each side of the horse. Sometimes we would go a different way and ford the Pembina.

I spent many hours finding the cows, bringing them home and milking. They could travel almost any direction – west into the bush along old trails or south and east around the big old sawdust piles and old slab corduroy roads from the sawmills. I always had a horse to ride for this, but occasionally on some rainy days, I wouldn't find them until the next morning.

We rode horseback, took wagon, buggy or sleigh to go the six or so miles to Drayton Valley to go to church or get groceries. I remember carrying the 100 lb. sack of flour from the store to the wagon or sleigh. Also I'd go to the July 1st picnic, which was a big event.

We later moved to NE 12-49-8 about two miles from the town center. I went to Drayton Valley School for one year and the younger kids for longer.

Joe and Ruth Pawluk sponsored me to go to the Alberta Bible Institute one term at Camrose (now Gardner College). Brother Morley also spent a term or so there.

Clover Trail School, 1947; Teacher Mrs. Georgia Wollschlager; Back, Eleanor Chipchase, Florence Haggerty, Morley Haggerty, Freda Chipchase, Laurence Chamberlin; Front, Earl Gregg, Lois Haggerty, Ruth Chipchase, Barbara Gregg, Hazel Haggerty. Missing, Clarence Haggerty

One time I rode horseback to the dentist near Tomahawk. After fixing my tooth, the family put my horse and I up for the night and sent me home the next morning. Such was the spirit of the pioneers! I had also hoped to see Mrs. Medd at Moon Lake, but didn't find her home.

Miss Shirley Medd

Miss Mabel Vincent, 1945, Teacher at Clover Trail Schoo

I worked for a while for $1 a day plus room and board, getting the kids off to school on their horse, milking cows, separating the milk, and feeding the pigs and cleaning their pens. I also worked at a home in Rocky Rapids mostly helping with the children and regular housework for the same wages. My best wage was $2 a day for helping with chores with a family near Onoway. Otherwise I helped out at home.

By this time, the oil was already changing the lives of the people in Drayton Valley, with oil workers needing boarding places.

In October, 1954, I married Ivan Malcolm and moved to his farm east of Elk Island National Park, where we still live. We have one son Elton, four daughters, Elaine, Twyla, Brenna and Adele and 13 grandchildren.

DENNIS AND JOYCE MALLETT

Submitted by Dennis Mallett

Dennis & Joyce Mallett moved to Drayton Valley in Sept., 1973, from Calgary. Dennis transferred with Hudson's Bay Oil & Gas Co. Ltd. to work as an Engineering Technologist in the Brazeau River Gas Field/Plant operations. Dennis continued his employment with HBOG and later with the ERCB, Dome and Amoco Canada.

The two eldest children, Chris and Shauna, were born in Calgary; the remaining three children, Tricia, Stephen, and Colin, were born in Drayton

Valley. As of 1998, the five children range in age from 30 years to 19 years old.

Chris married Emma Johnson and they reside in Edmonton; Shauna married Darrell Florence and they reside in Drayton Valley with their two little sons – Nolan (2 years), and Connor (1 month old); Tricia is single and resides in Edmonton; Stephen is single and resides in Drayton Valley; Colin is single and is a student at the U of A, studying Engineering. Joyce has been a devoted wife, mother and homemaker to her family and most recently a new grandmother as well as a volunteer in the church & community.

Dennis served six years as a school trustee for the St. Anthony Catholic School District from 1986-'92. He is a member of the K of C Council and the D.V. Golf Club. Dennis is employed with Amoco Canada Petroleum Ltd. as a Registered Engineering Technologist.

We have enjoyed making our home in Drayton Valley and feel fortunate to have raised our family here.

SLIM MARTIN

As narrated to Eleanor Pickup

Slim's mother and father and his five brothers came to Alberta from Texas in 1908. They were accompanied by Slim's grandfather McGee who had been a cavalry sergeant in the war between the States. Needless to say that he had worn a grey uniform. Slim's father Joe had served as a veterinarian in the army during the Spanish American War. He remained in the army for three years after the war, but had to resign because there was too much liquor (a bottle a day).

Slim Martin in his long Buffalo hide coat and his dog about 1948

They homesteaded and farmed near present day Barrhead. Walter (Slim) was born May 28, 1914, in a log cabin on the homestead. He attended the Paddle River School to Grade 9 and then continued his education by correspondence.

His first job was building roads around Barrhead. At that time there was no machinery. Roadbuilding was done by man and horsepower. Slim, at the age of 14, drove a four horse team on a frezno, drawing a man's wage of one dollar a day. Later he joined the rodeo circuit and made his home in Raymond, Alberta. He worked on threshing crews. After threshing was completed in 1938, Slim went with a promotor from Great Falls, Montana, into the boxing ring travelling to all the copper mining towns. When boxing was over he went to Nanton, Alberta and fed 100 dry cows at the Flying E and old Burns Ranch for two winters. Then he returned home to help his parents on the homestead.

On September 11, 1939, he joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps, however, a year later he was discharged because of a previous foot injury. In 1941, Slim returned to his old love, the rodeo. This time he worked as a clown and a bull fighter touring Alberta and the Northern United States.

In September, 1948 he was hired as a part time policeman in Barrhead. In his spare time he still continued following the rodeo. March 10, 1952 was a big day for Slim, he married Ursula Feibusch, a nurse at the Barrhead hospital. Ursula had been a nurse all through the war in England. In that year he became a full time peace officer (he prefers this title to policeman) in Barrhead.

In August, 1955 Slim and Ursula moved to Drayton Valley. He was this town's first Peace Officer. At the time he found he was working alone. He tells me it was the nicest police job he ever had. Drayton Valley had lots of Southern Americans working in the oil industry and they were all out to "help" the Marshall whom they had nicknamed "The Big Texan". Slim to this day must stand a good 6'6". In my eyes the Americans named him well.

Howard Pickup and Henry Deby were justices of the peace at that time. They presided in court when Slim brought in people on minor charges. For any major charges Slim had to ask for Judge Kankewitt who was the mayor of Edson. Judge Kankewitt told Slim that he was a fool to work around the clock for the wages he was receiving.

The cost of living in Drayton Valley was high

and Slim spent more than he made. He had to draw on his savings. So he left Drayton Valley and went to Leduc in 1958 as a policeman in that town. Mayor Kankewitt phoned Slim to tell him there was an opening for a peace officer in Edson and invited him to come. Since 1958 Slim and Ursula have lived in Edson.

As a boy Slim used to accompany his father, whose veterinary services were sought for by his farming neighbours, and Slim became quite knowledgeable in veterinary medicine, especially as applied to cattle and horses. There was no veterinarian in Barrhead and farmers called on Slim when their animals needed doctoring. The same thing happened in Drayton Valley, Leduc and Edson until an official veterinarian arrived in those towns.

Slim and Ursula were blessed with two daughters. Ruth who has a degree in Education from the University of Alberta and who is married to a forester, and Heather who followed in the steps of her father and her grandfather, and graduated from Saskatoon's veterinary college. She operates her own clinic near Three Hills, Alberta. Slim and Ursula have four granddaughters.

LEN AND ELSIE MARTIN

Written by Hazel Jennings

My parents, Len and Elsie, farmed in the Laverna, Saskatchewan area where all five of us girls were born. Because 1933 was an exceptionally dry year, dad decided to move north. With a covered wagon, hay rake and a few head of cattle, we started on our way ending up in the Paradise Valley district, south of Kitscoty, Alberta. Here we rented land, the "Ma Beckett" place, for three years, and attended the Cheviot Hills school.

Our neighbors, Mr. And Mrs Giles Davis and son Russel, had a homestead in the Violet Grove area. In April, 1936, we once again loaded our possessions on the wagons, and were on the move. This time we had about 14 head of cattle which I chased on horseback. Where possible, we camped overnight in school yards so the cattle wouldn't try to go back. We were held up twice because of rain; first around Viking and again at Hay Lakes. We had a cook stove and a cream separator on the back of the hayrack, allowing us to bake bread as we traveled and we even had cream to sell at the Hay Lakes creamery.

When we got west of Tomahawk our covered wagon got stuck in a low spot in the road forcing us to stay over a couple of days with the Domke's and Norton's. They helped us get the wagon out and we were again on our way. Finally, after one month on the road and covering almost300 miles, we arrived at Violet Grove. We spent the summer on the Davis place. In the fall Dad purchased the Tinker quarter, S. W. 30-48-7-w5th, now owned by Walter Turtiak. The Violet Grove school was located on this quarter making it handy for me to finish grade 8 the next term.

My parents always farmed, milked cows and sold cream, along with all the other farm activities needed to make a living. After mother's death in 1954, Dad worked in the oil patch until his retirement. He spent his last years in Red Deer with my stepmother, Bessie, who was a wonderful companion for him, He is now deceased as are my four sisters, making me the only surviving Martin to send this story. It was a good place to call home. I'm thankful the area history is being written.

MINDA MASTRE

Written by Ted Mastre

I am Ted Mastre, youngest of the clan that arrived from Viscount, Saskatchewan on March 20th 1929. With me was my mother Minda, brothers Clifford and Morris. I have several other brothers and a sister who chose to stay in Saskatchewan. We were met in Entwistle by Floyd Combs with a team of four horses and a covered wagon. It had been raining all day and it took us from nearly morning to supper to travel the 24 miles. There was no actual graded road just a trail that many others had followed earlier.

Our new home was a very small 3 room log house located on a farm 2 miles east of Rocky Rapids store. The farm was purchased by my mother for $600.00. It came with 4 horses and 4 young colts. The house had a loft where the boys slept. It was too low for the youngest to stand up. To show the giving nature of Minda, about 1year later her sister Ida Morin and her husband Charlie with 4 children, moved into the area and lived with them for several months until they found a place of their own.

L to R, Walter, Esther, William, Clifford, Ted, Morris, Irwin, Bella and Minda Mastre

A year later, John Mastre joined his family and soon became renowned for his hunting prowess. Eventually brothers Harry, Irvin and Bill with wife Bea and daughter Joan settled in the area. We lived very close to nature. One day brother John came home with two black bear cubs. We built an enclosure and a shelter and kept them for about a year. Little did we know how difficult they would become to feed and handle and so we had to end our makeshift zoo arrangement.

Minda was in demand for her skills as a healer and a midwife. Many of us can say that Minda helped us through our first moment of life. Her midwife duties took her into the homes of almost all of the early settlers. In exchange for her services she might receive sugar, vegetables or sometimes nothing but a heartfelt thanks. Minda was a remarkably healthy woman with great faith in the power and strength of her creator.

In 1934 her sons built her a large two story house on a new quarter 2 miles north and 11/2 mile west of Drayton Valley. This was a much more comfortable home and she was helped by her sons and good friends. Minda was famous for making beautiful quilts out of scraps of material given to her. She either sold them or many times donated them to the church for needy people.

Eventually Minda decided the comforts of town were too tempting and she moved into a small house across from the original school. In 1951, Minda decided to move to Creston, B.C. so I moved her there that fall. She lived there until she passed away at the age of 97 in 1972.

AL AND PEGGY MCKILLOP
JIM AND MARIAN MCKILLOP

Submitted by Peggy McKillop

After a couple of years of moving every few months to various pipeline jobs in North America, we decided to settle down. Al joined Pembina Pipeline in March, 1955 and we moved from Edmonton to Drayton Valley, with our six week old son.

We were able to rent one of the two room Elizabeth Cabins, which were small and sparsely furnished, and cold in the winter. It wasn't unusual to wake up to the bedding frozen to the wall. The washrooms were some distance away and necessitated a trip through snow, slush or mud. Several of the men got busy and made wooden sidewalks which helped some.

We waited and watched the building of the Pembina houses with great interest. On moving in, in 1956, we and others boarded some of the single employees as accommodations were scarce.

Peggy, Al, Jim and Marian McKillop

Moving to the house required buying furniture. Ours was delivered from Edmonton by Jensen's cattle truck.

In 1958 we were moved to Buck Creek to another company house. By this time our daughter was a small baby. We were there until the houses were moved to Drayton Valley. We lived in a trailer while the house was being moved and set up on 44th Street, where several houses from Lodgepole and Buck Creek were also being located.

We became active in several community groups. Al was a Charter member of the Lions Club, played tuba in the band, and worked with the Neptune Swim Club. He also helped in the building of the ski hill and taught skiing for 14 years. He also was a spare driver for the ambulance. In 1962 he was in a plane crash on Lake Wabamum. Fortunately he had no serious injuries.

Peg was a member of the Hospital Auxiliary and helped start the Thrift Shop. She also worked part time at the Hospital, Medical Centre, with the Health Unit and as an attendant with the ambulances in both Drayton Valley and Wildwood. This included transfers to Edmonton as well as accidents on rigs and vehicles. I also worked with the Neptune Swim Club and at the ski hill and at Blood Donor Clinics. I also worked with elections, both Provincial and Federal.

Our son Jim was in Cubs, Scouts and active at the pool with Leader Corps and Swim Clubs. He was also a member of the Ski Patrol.

Our daughter Marian was also involved in the Swim Club and Brownies. She was kept busy as a

baby sitter as well. Both children were active in school activities and Student Councils.

After graduation Jim joined the R.C.M.P. and Marian trained as a nurse at the University of Alberta Hospital.

We spent 25 good years in Drayton Valley and in 1980 retired to Summerland, B.C., where we welcome many friends from Drayton Valley for visits. Our children live in B.C. as well.

IAIN MCLEAN

Submitted by Iain McLean

I moved to Drayton Valley from Buck Creek in 1958, or 59. I was only 5 years old then. We had lived in the Drayton Valley area on leases and batteries since I was a baby. My dad, Jack McLean, was a Manitoba farmer who came to Alberta for the work. We lived in company housing that Mobil Oil had in town, and I lived in two of those log houses on the end of 54th Avenue, until I left home in 1974. Drayton Valley was the Big City those first years of my life. I remember the trip from Buck Creek took forever. We went to Blocks store, which I think may even have been owned by someone named Block then.

I remember Bob's second hand store, but I never remember a Bob owning it. I remember Red trucks and men who wore silver hard hats that looked more like army helmets than those sissy looking plastic ones they have now. There still were hitching rails around town back then. Well, somebody told me they were hitching rails. I was lied to from time to time.

I remember summer days that lasted forever, although I don't remember a lot of sunny ones, Northern lights that lit up the sky, and more rain than Noah ever saw. I remember the grand opening of The Bay, and how I thought the "Big Time" had come to Drayton Valley. I remember the downtown, (which we called Uptown) without pavement, and the town employees laying boards across the street for Friday night shopping, so we wouldn't fall in the mud.

Drayton Valley had an abundance of kids when I was one of them. Hero type guys like Ronnie Bowman, and fun guys like Billy Doug Watkins, and really cool guys like Ian Oscar. He had the same name as me, and he handled it so well. But my best friend was always Mark Pickup. Mark and I started several bands and wrote at least one secret language and spent between one and two thousand hours playing some form of war, be it with plastic men or plastic guns. We spent our spare time sitting in the rafters of his garage talking about Laree, whom Mark eventually married, or who ever had broken my heart that day. They were all so special, but I'm sure that every female born between '47 and '62 tore my heart out at least once.

Mark's dad was the mayor, which gave me certain celebrity status in those days. I was the mayor's kid's fat friend. I was very careful not to abuse this post. Well, my world caved in when Bob Findlay became mayor. I mean I was only his neighbour!

Growing up in the 60's in Drayton Valley was kind of cool, because as off the beaten path and far out of the action as we were, we thought we were pretty hip. We listened to Alice Cooper and Frank Zappa when we wanted to be really bad.

I made friends with Allan Baric, Jerry Bills and Skip Karach. I worked for The Bay and flunked most every kind of class you could imagine. I had some really cool teachers, Brits, who wore their hair like the Beatles and spoke with those cool accents. We also had a whole lot of teachers from the University of Saskatchewan. Some of them were even more hip than the Brits.

You could meet just about every kind of person you wanted to in Drayton Valley, because there was work. An interesting place, I'll tell you. My mom and dad still live there. There aren't nearly so many trees now. There aren't major "Drunken Brawls" on Saturday afternoons. I loved the Cardium theatre, the Audey Murphy movie and how badly that many kids could behave at one time. Also the fight you were guaranteed to see in the bar parking lot on the way home.

In 1974, I got a job with the R.C.M.P. and was posted in Saskatchewan. I've enjoyed my life. I've been a decent person by and large. But I've always had a nose for mischief. Although it's caused a lot of laughter, it keeps me in trouble too. I was well trained. I grew up in the character capital of Canada, and I'm quite proud of it.

JACK AND MARGARET MCLEAN

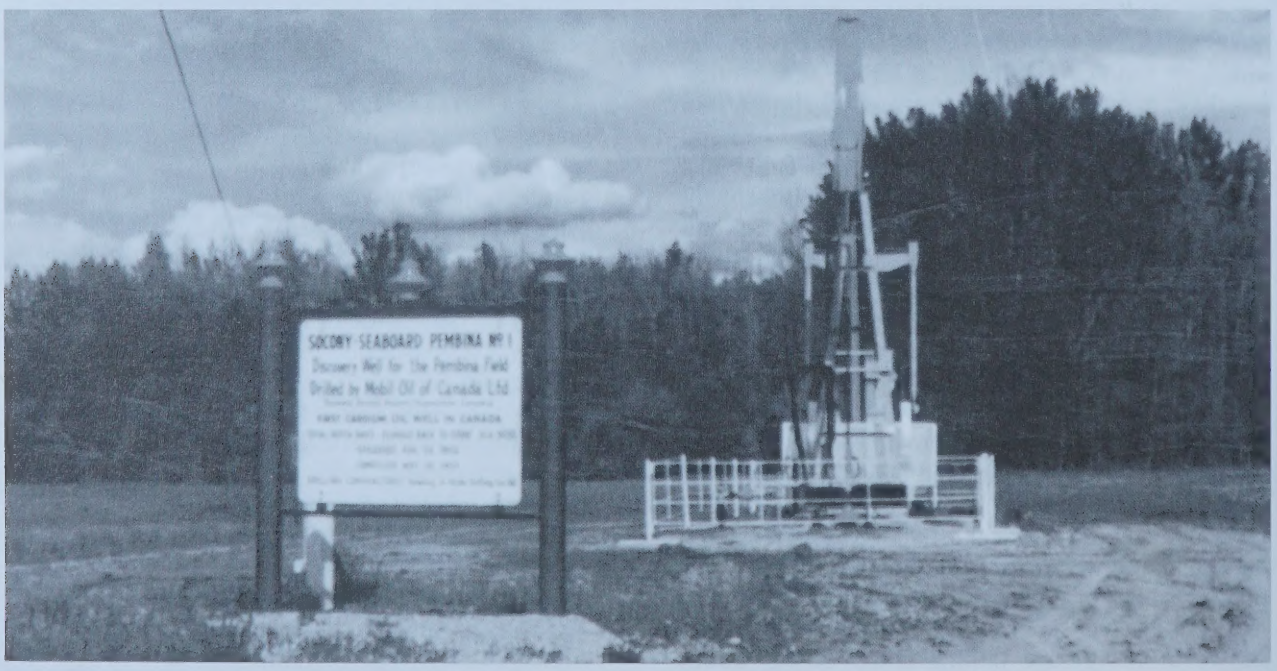
Written by Jack McLean

Following World War II, I obtained a quarter section of land through the Veteran's Land Act. It was on a school section, and was mostly bush and pasture. My father's farm was only a mile away, so after a year, I was able to rent it, though it didn't have much under cultivation. Our first daughter was born in November, 1945. There were complications with her birth and Margaret had to stay in Winnipeg. It was a Caesarian birth. There wasn't such a thing as Medicare then, so this pretty well took care of our rehabilitation money. So we started with 0 and a little farm machinery. I worked in the woods in the winter, cutting pulp wood and logs or working in a sawmill.

Drayton Valley 50th Street looking East

We lived in a very poor shack and I put whatever money I could make into clearing land. I cleared about 100 acres by hand and finally got enough money to hire a bulldozer. We were in the Swan River valley, near the village of Birch River. We were flooded in 1948 and again in 1950. In 1950 our entire farm was inundated except for the building site. Crops were poor following this for a year or more. In the spring of 1954, there wasn't much work in the bush. Two mills had shut down. My grandmother, Mrs. Lila Burger, was staying with my aunt and uncle, Louise and Dave Glen. She wrote to my mother and noted that there had been an oil discovery on my Uncle Dave's homestead. It looked very good, and there was lots of opportunity for employment. By this time my daughter was 9 years old, and I had a brand new son born September 8, 1953.

I really hated to leave home, but we sure needed the money. I had heard that wages in the oilfield were very high. So I reluctantly decided to go to the oilfield for a couple of months. Well, it is 44 years later, and I'm still here. I kid my friends sometimes



Socony Seaboard Pembina No. 1

by saying, "I had ten dollars when I got here, and I am going to stay until I get it back!" The truth is I got it back plus enough more to give us a comfortable living, although wages were not as good as I had heard, but they were much better than in Manitoba.

My cousin Jean's husband, Vern Campbell, was working for Mobil Oil. It was known as Socony Vacuum at that time. He introduced me to some of the authorities there and I applied for employment and was accepted. I knew nothing about locating, drilling and producing oil but I was willing to work and learn. I stayed with Mobil Oil for almost 33 years. Most of it was here in Drayton Valley and area.

1954 was a very wet year right across the provinces. Margaret wrote and stated that the weather that spring was so bad she had been advised that the possibility of getting a crop in would be very difficult. So I decided to stay a year and told my neighbour to put the crop in if he could. Margaret with our two children came to Violet Grove in April. We stayed at Glens until we got a shack built. It was great to be reunited with my little family.

It was a very exciting time to arrive in this area. February, 1954. There were about six or seven wells at that time. Many drilling rigs were moving in. All the equipment used to drill wells was trucked in from Entwistle or from other oil fields- tanks, pipe, vessels, fittings, miles of drill pipe casing, tubing, and pipe line were trucked in. In addition to this, lumber, nails, groceries, furniture, trailers, and hardware were also arriving and the oil that was produced was trucked out.

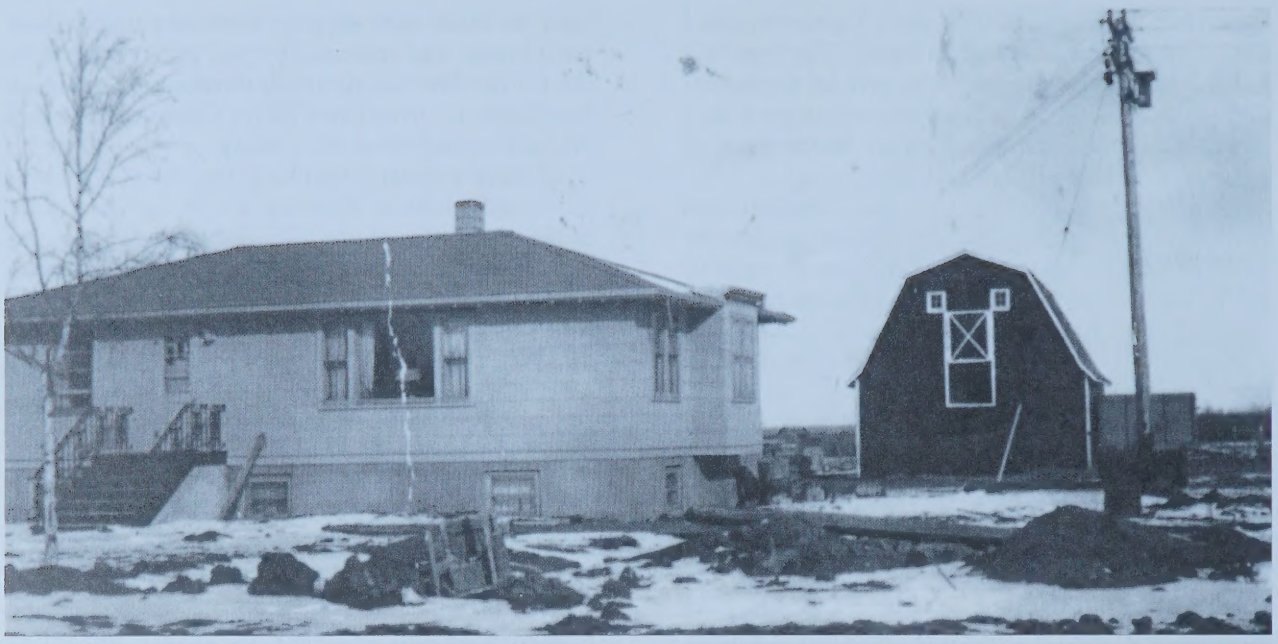
The roads in the area were mostly agricultural roads, not built to carry such traffic. If the weather was dry, the dust was terrible, and if it was wet, which it was most of the time in 1954 and 1955, then the roads were slippery with deep holes where a cat trailer was stationed to pull vehicles through. We got our first vacation in September and it took us four hours to drive from Violet Grove to Highway 16, an easy half hour drive today.

I have a great admiration for the people who pioneered this area. They had a very hard life. A lot of the necessities of life had to be hauled in by team and wagon from Entwistle, through bush trails with few bridges over coulees and creeks. Employment was mostly in logging camps and sawmills, and all those activities associated with that industry. They were a close knit society who survived by helping each other when needed and by cooperating on community projects, inspite of the hardships and economic problems they faced. On looking back, they realized they were really quite happy people. I think that when the oil industry people moved in, they were welcomed for the opportunities that came with them, but at the same time, may have felt some resentment that the land they had labored and fought for was being taken away by strangers. Who could blame them?

I don't suppose there is any part of Canada that progressed with the speed that happened here. Highways were built; drainage ditches were dug. Power lines, telephone lines, water and sewer lines were installed. Eventually the roads were paved. Pipe line and gas line gathering systems were installed and replaced trucks for that purpose. It seems there were new things occurring every day.

When I arrived in late February 1954, there were approximately 100 residents in the hamlet of Drayton Valley, other than the oil people moving in. Today the population exceeds 6,000 and is still growing. The oil industry is still doing well. It has changed so much since my introduction to it in

Centrefield skid shacks and trailer



McKenzie farm, Drayton Valley

February, 1954, that it is hardly recognizable. Perhaps that was what made it so interesting and exciting. One never knew what new innovations would appear next week or maybe tomorrow. In agriculture it has become a great cattle ranching area and now has a thriving lumber and wood products industry as well.

Drayton Valley has become a great place to live in with beautiful tree lined streets and businesses to provide for one's needs as well as recreational facilities for young, and old, and in between. Very few towns this size can equal it. Since coming to the Drayton valley area our family increased with another son and a daughter.

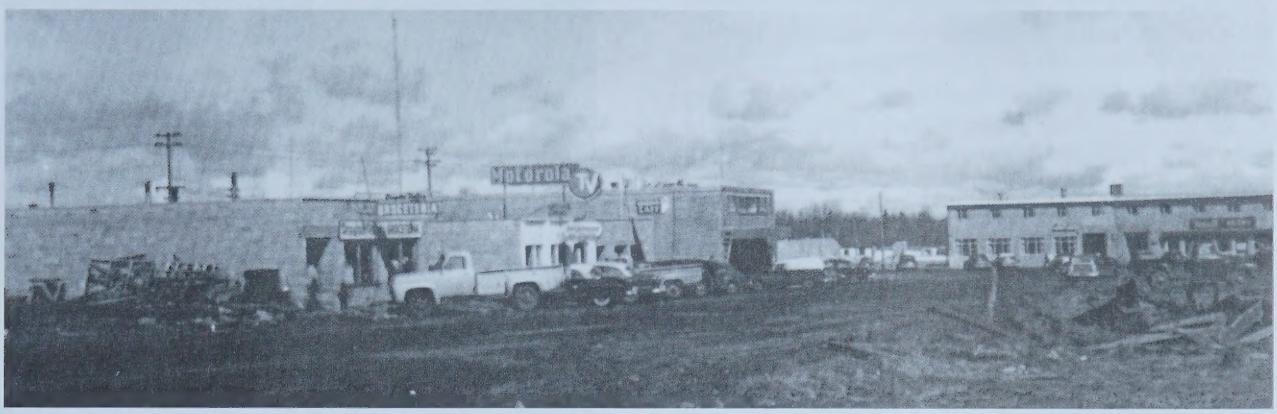
In 1972 we sold the farm in Manitoba and bought a heavily forested quarter section about 1½

Crossing Saskatchewan River on ice

miles from Drayton Valley. I bought a chain saw and cut logs and fence posts and enjoyed every hour that I spent doing it. I had the logs sawn into lumber and built all the buildings with home grown lumber. I found this very relaxing after the stresses and strains of the oil industry. We lived on the farm for twenty-five years. It was close to town and close to work, yet was country living and it's hard to improve on that.

Marie Anne is a school teacher in Edmonton. Ian is in the RCMP in Saskatchewan. Don works in the oil industry here in Drayton Valley. Fiona is married and has a lovable little girl. Ian and Carol have a daughter going to college in Calgary and two sons still in school. Ian and Pat are pipers in a bagpipe band and John is a drummer.

Margaret and I are retired and have left the farm and live in town. Don has taken over the farm. Drayton Valley has been mighty good to us and we wouldn't choose to live anywhere else.



Spring 1955 – main street taking shape

Conservation Board, Firehall, A.M.T. buildings

Spring 1955, a row of new homes

ALLEN & IRENE MCCLELLAND

Submitted by Irene McClelland

Al started working for Stanolind Oil & Gas in October, 1954. He was there for awhile before I moved up. He found a skid house (10' x 22') with 2 rooms, 2 windows, one door, no closets or cupboards & no insulation. We got an oil heater and Bill Bogart gave us a propane stove for cooking. We moved into Deby's trailer court and spent a cold winter. The floor was freezing cold and the ceiling was warm.

Our first daughter Lynda was born July/1955 in Edmonton. We were very lucky to get a Co. house on F Lease Dec./55. It was great, sewer, running water and inside bathroom. Second daughter Laura was born Aug/1957. It was a very long ride to Edmonton. Our first son Reed was born Oct/58. This was a longer ride to Edmonton and we just made it.

We were transferred to Edmonton Dec/59. We had to sell our car to buy a house, so I was left with three little ones and no father at home.

Our second son was born May/1960. Al was home to take me to the hospital. We stayed in Edmonton until July/64, when Al left the Co., and started his own Co. and we moved to Swan Hills.

Third daughter Terry was born in Aug/66. We moved to Ft. St. John, B.C. in May/69. We lived here until June/80 when we went to Beaverlodge. We started out with a ¼ section and ended up with farming 570 acres and calving out about 90 head of Simmental cattle. We had a crew truck in the oilfield at the same time. Sold in 1989 and moved back to Turner Valley where we are still today.

ALEX & EDNA MCKELLAR

Written by Edna McKellar

Alex left Turner Valley along with Bob Disney and Wilf Sleno in April, 1956, to go to Drayton Valley to work for Pembina Pipeline. He ended up working out of Buck Creek. For the first little while he stayed in the bunkhouse at the Pembina Pump Station. Then Bill and Ida Cross, who lived in a Company house in Buck Creek, were kind enough to tell him he could have board and room with them. Alex wasn't long moving in with them.

Alex purchased a lot across the street from the Crosses and proceeded to build a small house with the help of neighbours. I was still at Turner Valley on our small farm. There were very few phones in Buck Creek and I had no phone at the farm, but Alex got word to me in early June to get our son-in-law (Harry Denning) to come with his big truck and load up the furniture and move me up to Buck Creek. We picked up Don Disney the next morning. He was

Alex and Edna McKellar in front of Pembina Pipeline apartment

going up to Drayton Valley to help his dad build their house. When we arrived at Buck Creek in the afternoon there wasn't even a roof on the house yet as it had been raining a lot. Bill and Ida Cross asked Harry and I to stay with them. Harry stayed three days till the roof was on and shingled. Alex and I moved in right away even though there were no partitions up. I will never forget the kindness of Bill and Ida.

Buck Creek was a small place and very muddy when it rained. We made our own fun as there wasn't anything for entertainment. We built our own curling rink. Also there were lots of good company parties in the garage down at the pump station. Bob and Lena Neilson had the store and postoffice. Ed Gaudet had the garage.

Across the street from us were the Crosses, Fitzgeralds, Streits, Bains, Teskes, McKays, etc. There were lots of nice Mobil Oil people there, too. In November, 1956, our son Jack came and got a job with Home Oil working in the Buck Creek area. In 1959, he transferred to Swan Hills.

Alex and Edna McKellar's Pembina Pipeline company house in Buck Creek

The Company houses had sewer and water in them, which we didn't have. In 1959, we were able to rent a Company house and sold our own. We had to take the ferry across the river to get to Drayton Valley. There were always long line ups waiting on both sides of the river. The Government finally put a bridge in. So in September, 1960, the Company moved all employees and houses over to Drayton Valley. Our nephew, Bob McKellar, was staying with us then. He worked in Don McKenzie's Men's Wear for about two years.

In January, 1963, I went to work in the Valley Drug Store, which was in the hotel. Mr. Pickup was the druggist (and also mayor of Drayton Valley). Eileen Black was the other clerk. Later I was transferred to Pembina Drug. Some of the people I worked with there were: Druggists: Mr. Armstrong, Marion McKenzie, Clerks: Mildred Krauter, Betty Cabel, Esther Davidson, Tillie Weise, Peggy Oscar and Sylvia Copeman. I worked there till January, 1969, when I decided I needed a break. That year, in the fall, Valley Drug moved out of the hotel into a new building they'd built which made the store much larger. I went back to work for them just until they got things running smoothly and ended up staying there until February, 1975. The druggist was Mr. Kelson. I guess I have a face no one forgets as I still run into people, even in B.C., who say: "Didn't you used to work in the drugstore in Drayton Valley?"

Pembina Drug Girls – Edna McKellar, Tillie Weise, Mildred Krauter. Square dancers when the canoes arrived at Drayton Valley from Rocky Mountain House during Canada's Centennial, 1967

When we were in Buck Creek, Alex and Gordon Teske had small tractors and machinery and worked up the leases around the batteries and well sites. At that time the soil had to be kept clean around them. The men did this work on week-ends and evenings after they got off work at Pembina Pipe Line. Alex still did it for several years after we moved to Drayton Valley.

We bowled for several years with Ron and Norma Howatt and Roy Cabel and later with Robert Waddell, after Roy quit bowling. We also had a travelling league for a few years. It was all lots of fun. In 1969, my mother, Mrs. Steen, came and lived with us until 1972. In 1975, our grandson, Don Denning, stayed with us and worked for Flint. In 1976, our grandson, Leonard Denning, came and stayed with us and worked for Pembina Pipe Line for about two years. In 1954, our daughter and son-in-law (Irene and Allen McClelland) moved to Drayton Valley. Allan worked for Amoco. They later moved out to F lease near Lodgepole. While in the area they had three children: Lynda, Laura and Rod. In 1959, they were transferred to Edmonton and later had 2 more children: Brad and Terry.

Irene and Allen are now retired at Turner Valley and spend their winters in Arizona. Our granddaughter, Lynda, returned to Drayton Valley along with her son Wade and husband Francis Caughlin in 1977. Francis went to work for Esso. They had another son, Cory. Then in 1978, they were transferred to Norman Wells, N.W.T.

We met many great people while here on both sides of the river. In all we were here 21½ years. When Alex turned 65 in 1977, he retired. We were really sad to leave all our good friends and the

Alex and Edna – taken at the Four Season's Hotel, Calgary. Evening of December 19, 1975. Just going to party at Calgary Inn for celebration of our 20 years with Pembina Pipeline, Drayton Valley

friendly town but had kept our farm here at Turner Valley, with a gorgeous view of the mountains, to retire to, so we sold our house.

As long as Alex was able to, we returned to Drayton Valley for the Pembina barbeque and Christmas parties. Alex is now in a nursing home in Calgary and I am in a Seniors self contained suite here in Turner Valley.

Ed note: Alex passed away January 13th, 1998 at the nursing home in Calgary, AB.

LAURA MELNYK NEE (RYBAK)

I was born in Round Valley on May 14, 1941. I attended school in Athlone from grades 1 to 8. In those days, we had to walk to school. It was two miles away. During the winter, on real cold days, we took a horse and cutter. We fed the horse and covered it with a blanket for the day while we attended class.

After grade 8, I was bussed to Drayton Valley. I worked as a waitress in Drayton Valley for about a year. I then moved to Edmonton where I continued to work.

In 1962 I married Tom Melnyk of Highvale. Our wedding reception and dance was held in the Tomahawk Hall. We lived in Edmonton until 1974. We then bought a house in Stony Plain. We lived there for 25 years. I worked as a sales clerk in Stony Plain, Spruce Grove and Edmonton.

I have three children. Cecile of Edmonton, Dale of Okotoks, and Brian of St. Albert. I have a granddaughter, Coral, and a grandson, Zachary, both of St. Albert. My husband, Tom, passed away in 1991.

I now live in Edmonton with my fiancée Terry Mroczek.

WALTER RUSSELL MESTON

By Walter R. Meston

I first saw the light of day on my father's homestead about nine miles North West of Winnipegosis, Manitoba. My mother informed me that I weighed less than two pounds when I was born and was not expected to survive, but I was too ornery to die. I guess that's why I am still alive today. I guess I spent most of the first few months of my life on the oven door of my folk's wood range as incubators were not readily available at that time.

My father had moved to that part of the country with his father, mother, brothers and sisters in 1897 from Guelph, Ontario. My mother moved there from Hanna, North Dakota with her family.

In 1926 when I was six years old, dad bought a new Model T Ford car and we travelled out to Big Beaver, Saskatchewan, to visit my mother's relatives. They had a bumper crop of wheat that year so in the spring of 1928 dad sold the farm in Manitoba and moved to Big Beaver, Saskatchewan. We farmed that place two years, then bought a quarter section about four miles North West of Buffalo Gap.

Looking back, on being raised in Southern Saskatchewan during the dirty thirties, I realize how lucky I was just being who I am. My parents were honest hard working people and even though times were very hard I can truthfully say we never went hungry and never lacked enough clothes. Nor did we suffer unduly from the cold. After I was discharged, I spent the winter at home on the farm. I bought a quarter section of land and rented another, and in the spring, my brother Ralph and I put in the crop.

Toward the end of November 1946, I received an air letter from Olive saying she had got passage on a boat to Canada, at very short notice, and would be on her way to Canada by the time I received the letter. So we had Christmas at the farm and decided to get married on February 3rd, had our blood tests and medicals and made all the arrangements. We got snowed in - in a three-day blizzard. So we had to postpone our wedding until February 10, 1947.

I had been receiving letters from an army friend, Myrle N. Clark, of Three Hills, Alberta and he invited us out for a visit. After visiting a few days with the Clarks we were approached by Tom Bishop to get to work for them. We decided to stay there instead of going back farming in Saskatchewan, as I would have had to buy machinery etc. to get established on our own. Rick was born while we were working for the Bishops' on June 18, 1948. They didn't have a hospital in Three Hills at that time so he was born in Trochu.

We worked for the Bishops' until the spring of 1949 and then went to work for Russ Turner at Munson, North of Drumheller. In the fall of 1949 we went to work for Bill Hunter of Olds. Our daughter Gail, was born June 30, 1950, at Olds hospital. We spent the winter of 1950 to '51 down at dad's farm in Saskatchewan, and came back to Turners in the spring to work for the summer.

Bud Fisher was a Tool Push on a drilling rig, and said he might be hiring men. I got a call from him saying if I wanted a job to be at the rig that night at midnight to begin a shift. Olive stayed on the farm in the little house on Russ Turner's place with Rick and Gail until we found out how things would go. As green as grass, not knowing a Kelly from a water table, I somehow got through my first eight hours on a drilling rig. If I hadn't had a wife and two young ones, I would probably have packed up and gone home.

Every shift on the rig got a bit easier, and I was

learning a lot and fitting in pretty well. So that was the beginning of what turned out to be the thirty-four years of working in the oilfields which ended when Amoco Canada Petroleum Corp. retired me on July 28, 1985, when I turned sixty-five years old.

Dominion Drilling purchased another new rig and I was transferred down to Nevis. We moved our trailer onto the lease there. David was born on June 25, 1954. In August of 1955, I was asked to go to the Pembina field near Drayton Valley. We moved our trailer out to the North end of Violet Grove, to a trailer park owned by Joe Dubeau.

We drilled a couple of wells west of Violet Grove by Speed Corner, then moved over to Bruderheim. If we hit oil, we were supposed to have four wells to drill there, but alas, got a dry hole so laid the rig down as we didn't have a contract. I was sent back to Drayton Valley to Rig No. 2 for awhile. We then moved back to violet Grove.

In the spring of 1957 we moved down to Centerfield Trailer Park, at the South end of Violet Grove, where we had water and sewer which we didn't have up the Lantern Inn. I kept busy drilling most of the summer of 1956. Olive's mother came over from England for three months to visit. We took her around Alberta to show her as much as possible. We made the trip out to Jasper, then down through the Rockies to Banff and then drove down to Coronach, Saskatchewan, to meet my folks.

About the time winter started, Dominion Rig No. 4 got a contract to drill a few wells up at Red Earth in the Peace River country. As Olive was pregnant at that time, I decided not to go up there. Scott Alexander was born on December 10, 1956, in the General Hospital in Edmonton as there was no hospital in Drayton Valley then. As Rick and Gail were going to school then, I decided I'd had enough of following the rigs hither and yon. When we shut down for spring break-up in 1957, I started looking for a job on production which would be more stable.

In April I hired on with Stanolind Oil and Gas Co., started working for them on April 16, 1957. Shortly after I went to work for Stanolind Oil and Gas, they changed their name to Pan American Oil and Gas Co. I started work on the service gang, where I spent a couple of years. I then got a battery-operating job for a few years. I spent the last fifteen to twenty years operating the Glauconite Gas Plant six miles north of Drayton Valley. I don't know how many years we remained as Pan American but we eventually had another name change, and became the Amoco Canada Petroleum Company Ltd.

Shortly after I hired on with the company, Rosaire Parenteau came to work for them also. We both went to work on the same gang with Bud Eshpeter as Gang Foreman. Just after Rosaire started work, he came down with Hepatitus (Yellow Jaundice) and about a week later, Olive and I both came down with it, and were sick for I believe two or three weeks. Phyllis Lawson, who lived near us in the trailer park, looked after David and Scott, as we were so sick we could hardly get out of bed. When I got back to work, I joined the G Lease Fastball Club "The Pan Am Bears". "D" Lease up across the river, also had a team but at the moment I can't recall the name. I did most of the pitching for the Bears and it was good recreation. Pembina Pipe Line also had a team, as did Lodgepole Town, Texaco at Cynthia, Mobil Oil, Pan Am office in Drayton Valley and a couple more teams in Drayton Valley. We played a lot of ball as a result. Then in early winter of 1957 I was transferred up to D Lease, across the Pembina River, north of Lodgepole. As that made it quite far to travel to work, we moved our trailer into the trailer park in Lodgepole on January 8, 1958.

We spent exactly five years in the town of Lodgepole before moving onto the farm one half mile East of Violet Grove on January 8, 1963, where we still live today. I worked for the maintenance gang at D Lease for awhile, then took some Pumper training and did some relief operating, also operated one of Amoco (Pan Am) road graders when guys were on holidays or sick, etc. At that time, Amoco (Pan Am) had two road graders and did their own road maintenance in summer and snow ploughing in winter. It must have been 1962 when they had become Amoco and, took over the operation of a large block of wells north of Drayton Valley where a water injection system was being installed. By that time many of the gas wells north of Drayton Valley had been drilled and the Glauconite Gas Plant had been built. Because the company took over this block of wells and formed a union with a few other companies, they needed more operators. I was sent over to operate oil wells over there.

We made a deal with Dave Glen to rent the farm one half mile East of Violet Grove, and moved there on January 8, 1963. In the summer of 1963 we decided to adopt a baby girl. We got in touch with Child Welfare and made an application, waited about a year, then received word in July 1964 that we could pick up our baby girl on July 15. We named her Tracy Lynne. She was born on May 26, 1964. She was about six weeks old when she came to live with us on the farm.

After a while on the farm we decided to buy it. We bought a few cows and some second hand machinery and started doing a bit of farming. Those years were very wet. People were farming with

tracks on their tractors and combines to try to get their crops off, or else waited until it froze up and hoped the snow wasn't too deep. I remember a guy combining by Rocky Rapids on New Year's Day one year.

Anyway we built up a small herd of about twenty-five head of cows kept them a few years until the bottom fell right out of the cattle market, calves were only worth a few dollars in the fall.

We had bought a few Appaloosa horses from Cliff Whitelock, mostly for saddle horses and had joined the Lariat Gymkhana Club in Drayton Valley. Cliff decided to go into Quarter Horses and had bought a King Leo Bar stallion from Pageant of Calgary (called "Count Kilobar"). We bought "Moonshine G", his Appaloosa stallion, for Rick to ride in Gymkhana. Instead of cattle, we decided to raise Appaloosa horses. Looking back on the way cattle prices have come back and remained real high for many years, I suppose that was a big mistake. Have heard it said that the only people who never make a mistake are people who never do anything.

Looking back on our twenty years or so of raising, showing and racing Appaloosa horses, they were very good years with much enjoyment in meeting many people who became very good friends. We did very well with our horses, winning many awards at Halter, Western and English Pleasure, Trail etc. In 1974 we had the Champion Appaloosa Race Horse of Canada won by "Moonshine Melinka" a mare we raised ourselves, by Moonshine G and out of a thoroughbred mare called "Djecheri".

Our daughter, Gail, who did most of our showing, married Gary Keith and moved to Calgary. After Gail was killed in a freak accident in June of 1985 we lost interest in the horses and sold them all as quickly as we could find buyers for them.

As I was being retired by Amoco after 28 years in July of 1985, Olive and I moved down to Calgary to look after Jesse and Jordie, Gail's boys for about six months, until Gary was able to hire a Nanny from the Philippines to look after them. Her name is Letitia and she was very good with the boys who liked her very much. She stayed for many years, then left to try something else for a few years. Now she is back again, so the boys are really glad to have her back as they had a couple of other Nannies in the meantime and did not like any of them as much as they liked Letitia.

In the spring of 1993, we received an offer for our farm from Cliff and Audrey Whitelock and Danny and Janice Kos (their daughter and son-in-law) with the option to live in the yard as long as we wanted and to retain the oil revenue we decided to sell. As I've said, I've made a few mistakes in my life and that was probably another one. We really didn't get a fortune for it, and with interest rates low, would probably have got more from our share of the hay. In 1994, Cliff Whitelock said that was the most hay he had ever got off one hundred acres of hay land in all the years of farming he has done (such is life).

Since retiring in 1985, we bought a Fifth Wheel Holiday trailer and a three-quarter ton truck for camping. We spent the winter of 1986 to 1987 out in Victoria on Vancouver Island. It was so terribly wet, since it rained about ninety-five percent of the time, we never went back again. We've taken a couple of bus trips; one to Las Vegas and surrounding area, and another down through Vegas and out to San Francisco and then north along the Pacific Coast through the Redwood Forests and back up into British Columbia and on home.

In February, our family booked us into an apartment in Mesa, Arizona for three weeks, as a forty-five year wedding anniversary gift. We enjoyed and appreciated this very much.

In September, 1994, we motored into British Columbia, then drove into the U.S.A. along Flathead Lake, Kalispell, Montana, then down to Missoula, Montana, then left on Interstate 90 and down to Yellowstone National Park. We had planned a few times to visit Yellowstone, but something always happened to foul our plans. We enjoyed it very much. The geysers are something wonderful to see.

Looking back, I have a lot to be thankful for. A wonderful wife and family, and enjoy reasonably good health and I believe we live in the best province, in the best country in the world, so what more could I ask for?

STAN AND RITA METELSKI

I, Stan, arrived in Drayton Valley from Edmonton, on January 7, 1954. It took me 6 hours as the roads were like a skating rink all the way. I arrived with a pickup truck and a welding machine. I roomed and boarded 2 miles west of Campion corner, at theWalter Vickrey farm. I worked with Walter at drilling rig welding until flowline construction got started in the fall of 1954. The summer was so wet: we hardly got much work done. I rented a house trailer so Rita and Larry (4 years old) could come out and spend the summer in 1955.

I welded flowlines and did general oilfield construction till 1960 when I started Anchor Construction with Gene Rendflesh. We've done oilfield and pipeline construction in Drayton Valley, Fort Saint John, Valleyview, Slave Lake and a few other places.

Back Row, L to R, Larry and Stan, Middle Row, Janet and Michele with mom, Rita Metalski sitting

Rita moved to Drayton Valley in August of 1956 with two children, Larry (6) and Janet (2). We had a new 10 x 35 ft. trailer and parked in Flint Rig yard till 1959. Rita moved back to Edmonton for 2 years and back to Drayton Valley with Michele, 1 year old, in 1961.

All the children graduated in Drayton Valley and are now living in Edmonton and area. All the children were involved in sports of one kind or another which kept them out of mischief most of the time.

We moved to Edmonton in 1989 into a retirement village after 35 years in Drayton Valley, which were some of the best years of our lives, and thanks to all the people who helped make it so.

HENRY & ELEANOR METZGER & FAMILY

Submitted by Eleanor Metzger

We moved to Drayton Valley in May, 1956, from Mellowdale, Alberta. Our children were, Michael 3 years, Greg 2 years, and Gail 7 months old. Three more children were born in Drayton Valley: Ronald, Douglas and Kathy. We lived in Deby's Trailer Court for 4 years. In 1960, we purchased a house on the North East Side of Drayton Valley, 5403 – 45 Street. In 1976 we built a new house, two blocks away, 5506 – 48A Street.

All our children grew up and attended elementary and high school (excellent teachers). Our children enjoyed hockey, football, figure skating, fast

Henry and Eleanor Metzger

ball, Cubs, Scouts and Guides. We also attended services at the Lutheran Church. We stay in touch and visit members that became our friends over the years. It was an excellent community to live in, every function was within walking distance. Drayton Valley was a young town and we enjoyed living there.

Henry and Eleanor Metzger. L to R, Greg, Michael, Gail, Ron, Kathy and Doug

Michael married Rynate Runge. They have 3 children. Our first grandchild Kevin, then Lisa and Christine. They live in Edmonton. Michael is a mechanic and operates his own shop, Mike's Car Care Centre, 5704 – 103 Street, Edmonton.

Gregory married Susan McLean. They have 4 children, Kelly, Graham, Jamie and Travis. They live in Sherwood Park. Greg works for Telus as a Computer System Analyst.

Gail married Bill Hawryschuk. They have 2 children, Erin and Megan. Bill drives schoolbus. Both Gail and Bill are Janitorial & Maintenance

Personnel here at the Lake Isle Lutheran Camps. Gail operates a rural postal route.

Ronald married Janine Vetch. They have 3 children. Tyler, Zachary and Taneesha. They live in Evansburg. Ron drives a tank truck for J & A Trucking D.V.

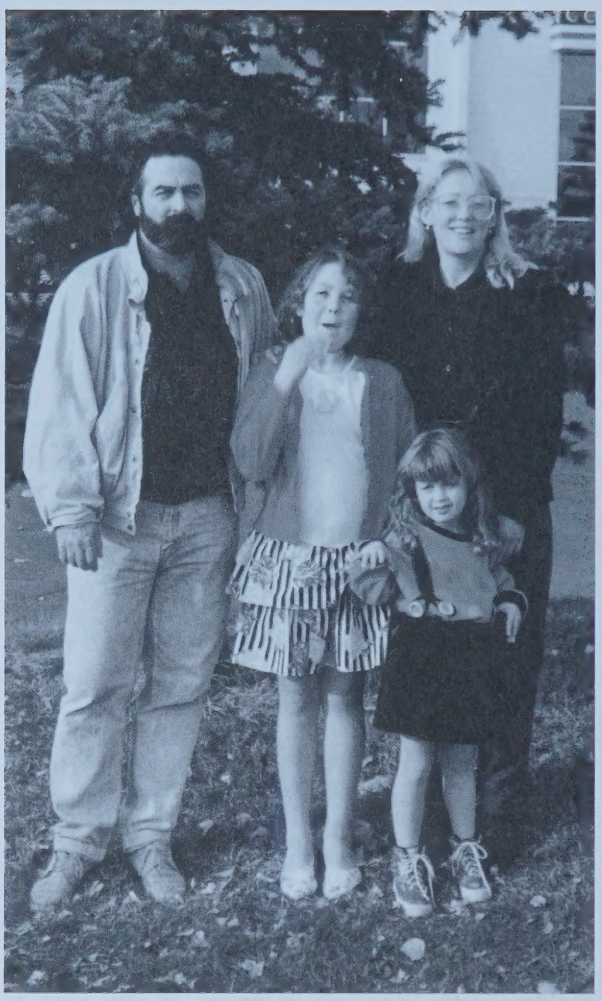
Douglas married Kathy Faye Madsen. They have 2 children. Alixe and Abbie. They live in Drayton Valley. They both work for the Ink Pot Print Shop. D.V.

Kathy J. Metzger lives in Edmonton and attends University and she also teaches dancing, ballet, modern and jazz.

L to R, Michael, Rynate, Kevin, Lisa, Christine Metzger

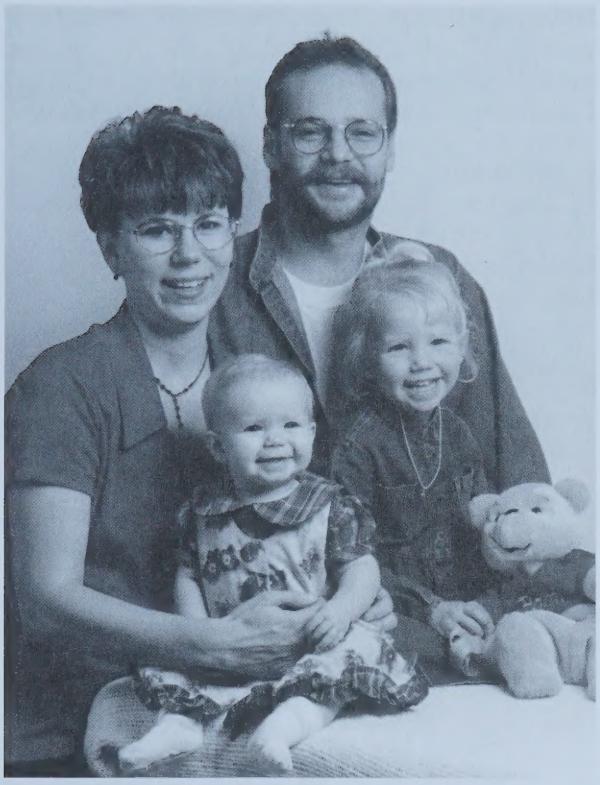
Susan and Greg Metzger with children

We lived in Drayton Valley for 28 years, and in 1984 Henry retired as a welder from Flint Engineering and we moved to Lake Isle Lutheran Camp. We worked in the camp as caretakers for 9 years. In 1993 we fully retired to our cottage here in the Lutheran Camp. We are enjoying our retirement and our children and all our friends and relatives. Now we have time to visit.



Bill and Gail Hawryschuk, Erin and Megan

Ron, Janine and Tyler Metzger



Doug and Kathy Metzger, Alixe and Abbie

L to R, Gail, Eleanor, and Kathy Metzger

JOHN & LOUISE (WILSON) MIKULIN

Written by Louise Mikulin

John was born and raised on the homestead, south of Violet Grove (SW 12-48-8-W5).

I was born in Wainwright, Alberta and came to the Violet Grove area with my folks (Fred and Edna Wilson) in 1954, from Redwater, Alberta.

John and I were married in 1961 in the All Saints Anglican Church in Drayton Valley and set up our home on the farm (NE 16-48-8-W5), west of Violet Grove, which John had bought in 1960 from Henry Ervington. The farm was known as Campion Corner at that time.

John's folks gave us a cow and 25 chickens to start farming. My Dad was over with his water well rig and cleaned out the water well as production was not fast enough for household use. The following spring we bought 2 pigs. We also added to our beef cattle with some heifers bought at auction in Thorsby.

John worked for Flint Engineering at the time of our marriage. The following spring he went back to work for Campion Pipe Lines.

Our first daughter, Eileen was born in 1962 in Drayton Valley Hospital. Also this same spring, we sold our car to buy our first tractor because one can't farm without equipment. After the crop was seeded that year, we had an awful hail storm which wiped out all our grain and hay crop. We managed to salvage enough hay to feed the few cattle we had at that time. The next year was a repeat of hail again. After that we had some real good years, harvesting oats at 120 bushels to the acre. We grew one crop of wheat on some new breaking one year and were lucky to get it off before the frost came.

In 1964, our second daughter, Laura was born in the Drayton Valley Hospital. This was a very rainy year and the roads were certainly full of pot holes and mud everywhere. When the highway, now called 620, was paved, it sure was a blessing.

Laura, John, Louise and Eileen Mikulin

John continued to work off the farm for different companies, operating heavy duty equipment for: Braidnor Construction and then the Government of Alberta, grading the Improvement District roads.

When the I.D. became County of Parkland, he transferred to them to operate a grader. He eventually became the Area Foreman and continued to work for them for 20 years. John retired in 1989.

During all this time, I learned to be a farm wife, raising the children and driving the tractor, swather and plowing a very crooked furrow. I milked 3 cows and would put the baby (Laura) in a big box in the manger while I finished my chores. Eileen would stay asleep in the house until my chores were finished in the mornings. In the evenings both children occupied the manger.

We raised some pigs for market. One year we got $197.00 per market hog with a $3.00 bonus. These pigs were shipped in November. The following January we shipped 9 more market hogs and got $197.00 in total. That was the end of raising pigs for us. By this time, we had built up a small herd of beef cows. Our farming now was a little easier and certainly more lucrative. A large garden was always grown. Some years the potatoes rotted in the ground as it was so wet. Getting the crops off during some of those years was very hard also.

Eileen started school in Drayton Valley in 1968, with John Getzinger as the bus driver. He was there and never late to pick her up at 7:10 each morning. She graduated in 1980 from the Frank Maddock High School.

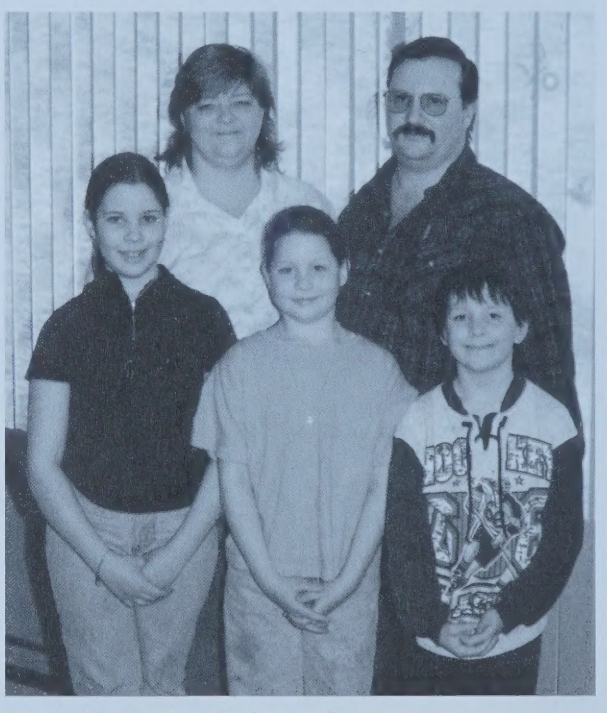
In 1969, we bought a house in Edmonton and moved it onto a basement on the farm. It sure was a lot warmer than the original house, which was built with an outside wall, a middle wall and then the inside wall, with no insulation between anything. Laura started school in 1970, also going to Drayton Valley. She graduated in 1982 from Frank Maddock High School.

Wesley, Laura, Jaimee Lee, and Trevor Fraser

We were really lucky to have real good neighbors and life time friends. Our immediate family all lived near us, as John moved about 4 miles from the farm he was born on and I moved about 3 miles from my folks' farm when we got married.

Laura was married in 1982. She and her husband, Wes, live in Drayton Valley. They have one grandson for us, Trevor, and one granddaughter, Jaimee Lee.

Eileen and Wayne were married in 1984. They have 2 daughters, Brenda and Andrea and one son, John. They work and reside in Drayton Valley.



Eileen, Wayne, Brenda, Andrea Sargent

John and I, as well as all of the Mikulin Families, were honored in 1995, with a certificate from the MD. of Brazeau for 50 years of continuous farming.

In 1996, we sold the farm to the Thyrs and bought a retirement house in Drayton Valley, hoping to do more camping, traveling and fishing and allowing me to continue my hobbies. However, John found retirement very boring, so on a part time basis, he operated heavy duty equipment for Braidnor Construction. John passed away after a battle with cancer on December 5, 2000.

John, Laura, Trevor, Wesley, Eileen, Wayne, Louise, Brenda, Jaimee Lee, John and Andrea. The Mikulin family

MIKE & ELIZABETH MIKULIN

Written by Louise Mikulin

Mike took up his homestead (NE 7-48-7-W5) in 1947.

Mike met Elizabeth Heidt from Warburg and they were married in 1953 in Thorsby. Mike's courting was fairly long in distance as there was no ferry across the North Saskatchewan River at that time. Mike and Elizabeth had met at John Schroburt's logging camp, where he was a skidder with his own horse. Elizabeth was one of the cooks.

Mike and Elizabeth Mikulin

Born to Mike and Elizabeth in 1955 was the first of their children, a boy, Jerry followed by a sister, Elaine in 1956; both were born in Edmonton, Alberta.

Mike and Elizabeth were able to add another ¼ section (NW 7-47-7-W5) to their farm in 1957. The land was bought from Mike Pacinda, who lived there until 1972, and then moved into the Shangri La Lodge in Drayton Valley, Alberta. This land became the farmstead as it is today. In 1963, Mike brought power to their farm. Sure was good lighting compared to the old kerosene lamps.

In 1966, they built a new home, almost a mansion compared to the small house they had lived in since they were married. Mike built most of the house himself including the kitchen cupboards. Elizabeth did all the interior and exterior painting. Mike liked to work with wood, and with the help of Elizabeth, built a wooden boat for their fishing pleasure.

For a good number of years Mike and Elizabeth raised purebred herefords, later going into Simmental-Hereford cross breeds.

Jerry and Elaine attended school in Drayton Valley. They were bused in, like many others in the community, by John Getzinger.

In 1979, Elaine married Gregory Coleman of Winnipeg at the All Saints Anglican Church in Drayton Valley. They now reside in England with their three children. In 1981, Jerry married Gloria Gerow of Drayton Valley, at the United Church in Drayton Valley. They still reside in town with their two children. Elizabeth passed away in 1987 and is buried in the Riverside cemetery in Drayton Valley, Alberta

Elaine, Gregory, Jordan, Janell and Travis Coleman

Jerry, Gloria, Wayne and Wendy Mikulin

Mike still resides on the farm, where his five grandchildren are able to visit him.

SEM AND JOSEPHA MIKULIN

Written by Louise Mikulin

Sem and Josepha Mikulin married in 1921 and immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1930, with two children, Mike and Ramona. They first came to the Lamont District but they bought a $ 10.00 homestead south of Violet Grove (SW 12-48-8-W5) in 1930. Sem and Josepha came to the homestead in 1932 and built a home. With them they brought a stove, one horse and wagon and miscellaneous house hold goods. The stove and wagon were stolen the next year, when Sem and Josepha returned to Lamont to help with the harvest. In 1937, twins were born to them at the farm. John and Dolly were delivered by midwife Mrs. Moraze.

Ramona, Sem, John, Dolly, Josepha and Mike Mikulin about 1945

Times were awfully tough with the farming being done all by hand and horses but in 1943, they were able to buy another ¼ section (NE 12-47-7-W5) from Fred Wilson (no relation). This became the permanent farmstead, with the new house built in 1959. They bought a brand new tractor in 1952. This was a real time saver at seeding and harvest time. Sem never learned to drive the tractor, leaving this to Mike and John. Sem still maintained horses and did a lot of work with them.

With having horses, as well, they always had milk cows, beef cows and raised a lot of pigs for market and chickens for home use. In 1971, they bought another ¼ section (SE 13-47-7-W5), adding to the size of the farm.

Josepha always had a large garden and loved flowers. She was an excellent cook and her home-made bread was a treat to the taste buds. She sewed for the family and was a seamstress for a lot of the community, as she was the only one with a sewing machine.

Josepha and Sem Mikulin, 1962

They retired from farming in 1966, but continued to live on the farm together, until Josepha had a stroke and took up residence in the Lynwood Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton. Josepha passed away in 1983 at the age of 86 years. Sem lived on the farm, alone, until 1980 and then retired to the Shangri La Lodge in Drayton Valley. Later he went to the Lynwood Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton where he passed away in 1987 at the age of 90.5 years.

They are buried side by side in the Riverside cemetery in Drayton Valley. Sem and Josepha left:

Mike and Elizabeth Mikulin and 2 children
Ramona and Milton McGinn and 7 children
Dolly and Martin Joesting and 2 children
John and Louise Mikulin and 2 children

Dolly still owns and farms the original homestead.

L to R, Ramona McGinn, John Mikulin, Dolly Joesting, Mike Mikulin, 1986

JOSEPH AND ESTHER (LITKE) MILLER

By: Kimbell (Miller) Colyer

Joe Miller was born at Stony Plain, Alberta to Phillip and Susanna (Schram) Miller on August 16, 1899. His parents were part of the colony of German families that immigrated from Galacia in the late 1880's – first to Dunmore, Alberta, and then in 1891 to the Stony Plain area.

Esther was born at Brightbank, Alberta to Henry and Whilhemena (Goltz) Litke on August 14, 1903. The Litke family was from Schleswig-Holstein, Germany and immigrated in 1888, traveling on to Victoria to study languages there. Returning to Calgary in 1890, they were on the first train from Calgary to Edmonton in 1891 and settled in Strathcona where they opened a store. Shortly after Joe and Esther were married in 1924, they purchased the Spruce Grove Hotel, where their children Melville a son, was born on June 26, 1925, and a daughter, Kimbell, born on August 5, 1926. In 1929 they rented the hotel to people who would eventually buy it and we moved to Edmonton for a year. Then as a part of their plan to take a homestead at Rocky Rapids, we spent a year with our grandmother in Stony Plain. When school was over at the end of June 1931, we were on our way!

Mother's brother, August Litke, had a beautiful team of horses and was our mover and guide. A tent

August Litke driving the tent covered wagon used to move to Rocky Rapids in 1931. Joe Miller standing, children, Kimbell and Melville

Joe Miller with Melville and Kimbell

was erected on the box of the wagon. We had a 'Winnipeg' as they were called, couch that opened out, our parents slept at one end and Melville and I at the other. Uncle Gus bedded down in whatever school we had stopped at for the night. The horses rested and grazed. There was always a well so we were able to cook and wash, and enjoy the luxury of a first class out-house with a door! It was a fun trip for Melville and I, and hopefully for the adults too.

I recall vividly the moment on the final day of our journey when we came to the top of a hill overlooking the farmlands of Rocky Rapids. Uncle Gus stopped the horses so we could have a good look around. We heard whoo-hooing off to the right in the timber and Uncle Gus said it was berry pickers keeping in touch with each other. As our homestead had only the shell of a squared log house on it and much work was needed to get it in shape, Uncle Gus had arranged for us to live with a bachelor farmer named George Hanna. His farm was right in Rocky Rapids, next to the Gilbert McCalls' who had the post office, which was a tiny log cabin. Mr. Hanna was a very nice man. I'm sure he enjoyed Mom's cooking and housekeeping as a pleasant change. We stayed with him for a year while the house was being finished and the barn erected. Melville and I attended school at Rocky Rapids. After we moved to the homestead, which was three miles west and south of Comb's store, our mother arranged for correspondence courses and became our teacher. She also arranged for Sunday School lessons.

Lila Berryman and Kimbell Miller

Most of our furniture had been ordered and delivered by the time we occupied the house except for the kitchen chairs. Dad cut four blocks of wood from an enormous spruce tree and as the tree was tapered we were delighted with our Poppa, Momma and two baby bear stump chairs and used them as such until the store chairs arrived.

Dad was very proud of his 303 le Enfield rifle. He enjoyed it when his uncles and cousins would come from Stony Plain and they would go west to Easyford, cross the Pembina River and hunt. Dad was known as the "cut-line" hunter because he preferred to use the cut-lines that marked the unclaimed Homestead sections of land. He didn't mind the ribbings, as he was confident that he would make it back to camp at

Melville P.H. Miller 1944

dusk. It was an exciting time when the hunters returned and I remember once, very early in the morning, when I was wakened by the happy sounds from the kitchen that meant the hunters where back and enjoying breakfast.

Melville and I sat on the stairs listening to their tales when Dad asked me to go to the garage to fetch something for him. I bundled up and went to the garage, which was a log building with two heavy doors that opened out, French door style. I pulled one door open with the leather strap for this purpose and walked around it to go in. I nearly fainted, as there on the garage floor was a bull moose that had been dragged in by its back legs. A moose head is very ugly and scary thing to come upon unexpectedly. I must have staggered, as there were great howls of laughter coming from the house. My entire body was covered with moose sized goose bumps as I wobbled back to the house. I evened the score by having moose head nightmares for months.

Our Uncle, Philip Schram SR. butchered the animal and I believe he made some sausage meat from a portion with the rest formed into hamburgers that were partly cooked. Every Roaster and pan available was used again and again for this job until at last all of our two and three-quart sealers were full and most of the meat, except for a few roasts was used up. The final step of this arduous job was to place the jars in copper boilers on a hot stove and cover with boiling water for the final processing. The melted fat would rise to the top of the sealer and when set it became an excellent seal.

Every family in the district worked hard to get a school built. There were socials; dances, picnics and raffles put on, all well supported with donation of time, labor and money. When at last the school was ready, the name Laurel was chosen from a list of entries, Mrs. Garside was the winner. The Christmas concerts were great fun. I recall one when the boys built a stage modeled after a radio station studio complete with a mike made from a circle of twigs and mounted on a pole. It looked quite like the real thing. Another year, we wrote little ditties to salute our parents and friends. For Mr. Scheon, Crystal's father, who was delivering the mail to Easyford at the time we sang, "Cheerio Mr. Scheon Cheerio: Feed your horses lots of hay, Easyford is far away". For the Jelberts who ran a sawmill: "Cheerio Jelbert crew, Cheerio: isn't it and awful pity you can't run the old twin city" (Steam engine).

I remember how my father loved to play cards and would go to a lumber camp to join the boys in a game. He began to 'overstay', so Mom had a little talk with him and he agreed to be home earlier. All went well until one morning when he got home not

Kenneth and Kimbell Colyer

too much ahead of sun up. Mom was annoyed with him, of course; still she listened to his story and later enjoyed telling everyone his 'tale' of how he had left the camp at a decent hour. It was a moonlit night, and my father said that as he walked through the dense forest, he saw a motion, followed by another smaller one. He realized it was a bear and her cub, so knowing that a bear always has two or three cubs, and that one never ever passes between a mother bear and her cubs, he sat on a stump to wait for the other cub or cubs to catch up. He waited and waited, but the other cubs never showed up, so he finally decided to risk his life and start out for home. "Thank heavens", Mom would say, "he made it home okay".

My mother was terrified of a fire starting from the tin pipes that were the chimneys in most homes. The homes like ours where the roof was never finished beyond the tarpaper, were the most vulnerable. One night when Dad and Melville were away hunting, Mom noticed that the pipes were red hot. When she checked outside, she screamed to get out of the house. The sparks were shooting up into the air and it seemed the house with its tarpaper roof

would surely catch fire. We put a few pieces of furniture outside, dressed warmly, grabbed a lantern and with Lindy, our dog, we started out for Schoens, about a mile away. My mother was terribly upset, both of us frightened. It didn't help when Lindy ran into the woods and returned with 'company'. Our uncle Leo, who was a trapper, had told us that if you shine a light in a wild animal's eyes, it will blind it and it will run away. Mom held the lantern up. It was either a coyote or a wolf behind Lindy. We all, animals and humans, froze on the spot. When, the wild one was suddenly gone. My mother was sick, and she spit up blood, but soon we came to Schoens and they made us tea and a snack. At bedtime, the guest room was the attic, where we were given (I believe) a cow hide for a mattress and another for a blanket. It made the coziest bed and we did sleep a good sleep. The next day we were relieved to find our house still standing and safe.

We lived on the homestead for ten years. We were very isolated. The house was built in the middle of the homestead away from any main road. Still the teachers always stayed with us, which was nice as Mom liked them and it was 'girl' company for her. When I think back to the small house and lack of privacy, I am amazed at how we all got along. The teachers were all very special and dedicated. One time Melville had to stay after school, for some long forgotten reason, to get the strap. I stayed too, as we always walked to school and home together. Melville was a very quiet and brave young person, so I guess I didn't expect him to cry. However, after a few good whacks of leather across his hand, he did give a sob, and I stood up and shouted, "You leave him alone". She did. We didn't speak going home, and I think Melville went to bed early. Later I overhead the teacher gelling Mom and Dad what had happened. He must have deserved the strap, as that didn't seem to upset them, and the teacher, it seemed, wanted our parents to know that we kids would stick up for each other, even though we didn't always see eye to eye.

If the teacher had a boyfriend, and they usually did, we all enjoyed their visits. The teacher and her friend, Mom and Dad would sit at the table talking and laughing. Melville would go to bed, but I would try to eavesdrop anyway and anytime I could. If the boyfriend was one of the Mastre boys, he might be asked to stay over, as they were my father's friends too.

We had one of the few radios in the district and if something special was coming on, such as a Joe Louis boxing match, the bunkhouses would be empty that night at the young men would all come to our place to listen to the fight. It became a joke and a nuisance too, for those who had walked a distance to just get seated when Joe Louis would floor his opponent a few seconds into the first round.

My father usually had a car and when needed, he would drive people, especially children who were ill, to a doctor or to the hospital in Edmonton. In the cold weather, he would put a good-sized stone in the oven the night before. It made a good car heater.

Considering that it was the worst time of the depression, our life on the homestead was pretty good for a long as the rent from the hotel arrived. But that ended in the late thirties and we had a very bad time of it, though not for lack of trying. The homestead, it seemed, could not be coaxed to produce. Land was cleared, plowed and seeded, but the crops were always poor. They got a sawmill and took the lumber off our place. That was a little better. Dad got a small gristmill, which he operated at the D.H. Glass General Store. The Combs family, who owned the other general store, got a mill too, which I believe put both mills out of business, as one was really more than the hamlet could support.

Mom's mother, our Granny Gronbeck, (she remarried after Mr. Litke passed away in 1915), was a lively, energetic and humorous lady. She passed her time between her home in Stony Plain, which I assume was her home with Mr. Gronbeck before his passing in 1932, and her homestead at Rocky Rapids. She loved farming. It was the dream of having a large farm of her own that brought her to Canada at the age of 16. Once when she was returning from Stony Plain to her homestead, she learned at Entwistle that the recent heavy rains had made most of the road impassable. The mail truck she had planned to hitch a ride with would not be available. This was on a Saturday, the next mail delivery would not be until the following Wednesday, so Granny started out for Rocky Rapids on foot, a distance of about 25 miles. She hitched wagon rides as they became available and stopped in to visit with strangers when she was tired or hungry. I don't remember if she made it home the same day, or if she had to bunk over somewhere. I do remember that she walked to our place the day after she got home to tell us she was back. She once ordered a pair of shoes for me, which she paid for by bringing butter to the store. This was to be a surprise for me. The time came when I had stayed overnight with her and she suggested we go to the store, so off we went, my bare feet and all. When we got to the store the shoes were there and Granny said they were for me and I should try them on. I wouldn't. I just would not try them on, sat with my head down, feet curled back as far as I could manage. On the way

home she asked me "Ain't you lik'en da shoos?" I said "yes" but that I had been running around the barnyard before and my feet were dirty.

Melville and I were fortunate in being almost the same age, as it meant we grew up together and enjoyed doing and sharing the same things. We would pull our sleigh to Camerons Hill during that season and join the Camerons, Romanchuks and all the kids for a great time of zipping down the hill, then trudging back up to do it all over again and again. Often as we walked home Melville would explain his theory on perpetual motion to me. Each time he would say it was an improvement over the previous theory. He seemed so sure he 'had it' that I often mused in later years as to what, if anything, he was on to.

Our mother suffered a stroke in the fall of 1941 at the age of 37. I was away at high school in Tomahawk at the time. Mom and Dad wanted me to finish the term, so I went back after the Christmas break.

The next summer we stayed with Mom's half sister, Thelma Willie on her farm at Stony Plain. It was hoped that with access to doctors in Stony Plain and Edmonton, Mom could be helped. However, we returned, disappointed, to the homestead in the fall. That winter was a long and lonely one for the Millers. Even the animals and the out buildings seemed to have a dire look about them. Dad tried, he did what he could and Melville had always been a good worker. But it was our Mom who made our house a home. We still had the radio, an old Atwater Kent, and we did enjoy the Sunday evening programs such as Edgar Bergen, Fred Allen and Red Skelton, who was a favorite, especially in the skits when he played 'The Mean Little Kid', and would welcome his guests by responding to a knock at the door with "we have company-once a day we have company".

One time, when we – Mom in her bed now moved to the main floor, dad at the table playing solitaire, Melville building something and I dreaming my way through the catalogue, heard a knock at the door. We all stopped, looked dumbfounded at each other, when Melville, bless his humor, got up and going to the door, sang out, "We have company, once a year – we have company." "Company" was a minister who had walked from Drayton Valley to visit us.

The next summer, 1943, we had an auction sale, abandoned the homestead and moved to Edmonton. Dad worked in a hotel where he and Mom had a room. My mother liked me to give her a bath and then we would go downstairs and have lunch. Her left side was paralyzed, however, she did get around quite well and learned to manage most things with her right hand. Melville found work with a circus, handling the equipment. He stayed with them, went to Vancouver, where he joined the army.

I was living with a high school friend, Elsa Zacharko who was from the Moon Lake area. My first job was with CP Airlines loading and unloading the planes. I loved going up on the test flights after a plane had been repaired. It was free, but you had to sign your life away first. Elsa and I are still friends and see each other often.

Mom died on January 21, 1944. I left Edmonton shortly after. Melville was stationed at Calgary by then and I joined him there. I had previously applied for a job at the Ajax War Plant in Ontario and following my 18th birthday I received my ticket to go. Melville did not like the army. He did not want to go overseas and he did not want me to go to Ontario. It was a sad parting.

Our dad remarried, to a very nice widowed lady, a Mrs. Ruttan. I shall be forever grateful to her for her kindness to Melville when he visited them on his embarkation leave. Sadly, the marriage did not work out and Dad moved to Grande Prairie. He died there on June 7, 1957. He is buried in Edmonton with Mom.

Melville was killed in action on October 7, 1944 and is buried in Gent, Belgium.

The years I have spent in Ontario have been good to me. My father's sister Mary, her husband Selby Grant and my cousin Joyce lived near Ajax and became my family. They were wonderful to me. Though her parents are gone now, Joyce, and now her family, and I are still very close.

I married a truly fine man, Kenneth Colyer, on July 12, 1952. We worked well together and had a good life until his passing from cancer on December 10, 1999. Ken wanted to spend the last of his life at home, not in a hospital. This was arranged and we made the most of that precious gift of time. I plan, if spared, to travel now. A top priority is to visit Melville's grave in Belgium.

My thoughts on my memories of our years at Rocky Rapids are probably best expressed as my father used to say whenever he was complimented on being the father of "such a lovely little girl". "Yes", he would say, "I wouldn't take a million dollars for her, and I wouldn't give a dime for another one like her.

MITCHELL

Submitted by Earle T. Mitchell

The Mitchells who came to Drayton Valley in 1931-32 came west from Pugwash N.S., in the fall of 1919. Elfreda (Effie) had been told that she had

the symptoms of T.B. and was advised to move to a drier climate. With their two boys, Norman and Elwin, they moved to the Glidden area of Saskatchewan where they farmed for the next four years.

During this time, two more boys, Earle and Howard were added to the family. The climate in Saskatchawn must have agreed with Mother, because the symptoms of T.B. disappeared and she went on to the ripe old age of 101 years.

1923 is the start of my remembering, and it is still fresh in my mind the night the cyclone and hailstorm took most of our buildings and ruined our crops. Dad decided we should go further west, so putting our few belongings in the old Ford car, we headed for Alberta, stopping in the Entwistle-Evansburg area.

Taking a homestead in the Reno district proved to be a big mistake as the heavily treed area was very hard to clear and would have taken years to become productive.

In 1926, Dad moved us to Styal where he had a job as sawyer and millwright on a small mill. It was there that we got our first schooling, as the Imrie school had just been built. It was during these two years at Styal that Gerald was born.

In 1928, we moved to Entwistle where we lived in a rented house just south of the R.R. tracks. I think we were on the wrong side of the tracks, because in later years I came across an old school picture of Mrs. Balfour's class in the elementary school, and the only three children they couldn't identify were myself, Howard and Elwin. By this time Norman was going to the senior school and it was in 1930 that our sister Olive was born.

It was in 1931, that Ray Hadley, (an old friend of ours) and Dad, filed on two homesteads in the Drayton Valley area. Each homestead had approximately thirty acres of good spruce timber on them, so during that summer we built two log houses. We were situated one mile west and one and a half mile north of the Post Office.

In the spring of 1932, we moved to our log cabin and we started school in the one room school across from the Post Office. The village at that time consisted of the P.O. run by Mr. Drake, Morrow's store, a small building east of the P.O. which was used as a church and a temporary school while a new one was being built after the fire.

During the next seven years, the Village expanded quite a bit. South of Morrow's store, there was Mr. R. Potts, the Hystads, McLaughlins, Mitchells and perhaps others. West of the school was the community hall built in 1935 and Ganske's store. West of the P.O. there was a small store owned by a Mr. Peterson who started a choir at one time. Mother and Dad both sang in it. I think Check Ball took over the running of this store. Next to them was a small cabin where Dave Bremner lived in 1936. An Anglican Mission house was built next to him. Miss Sybil Groves was the Mission Lady and with her we had a district nurse, Barbara Whittaker. A Rev. Elkins used to come once in a while to conduct services and Mother used to play the organ.

My time at the little school ended in 1935, when Evelyn Neff and I graduated to grade nine. Although my length of time in this school was not long, the memories have been good. We had no organized sports, so prisoner's base was our favorite pastime at lunch time and recess. During my last year, we somehow obtained a softball and a bat so were able to play a bit of scrub.

Of the fifty or more children that were attending the school at that time, I think that over half of them came from the west side so a lot of us would get together for that last mile. One Erickson, three Morins, four Tuckers, two Urchyshyns, some Hodges, two Hellyers, four Mitchells, one Mastre, three Hadleys, some Kynochs, some Guzes and two Urkevichs.

A small creek passed under the road about 3/4 of a mile west of the school and one summer, a few of us built a small swim pool in the woods north of the bridge. We tried a bit of mixed skinny dipping one time after school, but somehow Miss Monaghan found out, which put a stop to that. I think this was Miss Monaghan's first school as a graduate fresh from normal school. It must have been a daunting task for her, and except for the day she kept some of us boys after school, trying to get us to tell who had tied the two dogs tails together at recess, she did an excellent job and I feel sure we all loved her.

The day we moved to the Valley was in March, and I had time before it was dark to set out some rabbit snares. The next morning, there were two nice rabbits for the pot. From that time on I seemed to be the one who supplied wild meat for the table, with my snares for the rabbits, sling shot for spruce hens and partridge, and the odd deer when we could borrow a neighbor's gun.

Our summers seemed to consist of picking wild fruits which were very plentiful. Strawberries, mostly from Sammy Dunn's clover fields, high bush cranberries, red currants and black currants from the many timbered areas around the Valley, choke cherries and saskatoons along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River, Christmas cranberries from the many muskegs in the area, and last of all, the blueberry trips to Bear Lake west of the Valley out past the Pembina River. These trips usually consist-

ed of more than one family going for two or three days.

As these years were the hungry thirties and money almost non-existent, any means of getting some was explored. Dad used to take contracts clearing land, picking roots, etc. which worked quite well for us with the family of boys. With all the timber near and around the Valley at that time, lots of small mills would be working in the winter months. For two winters, Dad took contracts for cutting logs for two different mills. We were getting $.10 a log and Dad and I could cut fifty to sixty logs in a day if the timber wasn't too large. After paying for our meals at the camp, we would make about $3.00 for a day's work.

In 1938, Dad built a house in the village so Olive and Gerald could be closer to the school. In the spring of 1939, Gerald who had been born an asthmatic, got quite sick with pneumonia and the Doctor suggested that a change of climate might help him.

At that time, we were quite friendly with Mr. & Mrs. Bennet who lived just south of the Valley P.O. They had made a trip or two to Vancouver Island and told us what a wonderful place it was. We built a small two wheel trailer to pull behind our Ford car, put our few things in it, sold the homestead to Kenneth Morin and in June headed for the West Coast.

We settled on the Island but the family has drifted around a lot since. Norman went back to Alberta and spent the last of his years in Calgary. Mom and Dad spent about thirty years in Edmonton, Calgary, Regina and Moose Jaw building houses with Gerald. They moved back to the Island and Dad passed away in 1967. Elwin spent the most of his remaining years with the Army. Olive, Howard and I stayed on the Island.

GEORGE AND LIBBY (ELIZABETH) MOHN

Submitted by Libby Mohn

George and Libby Mohn, with their three sons, farmed in the Tiger Hills district of Saskatchewan before moving to Calmar, Alberta, where George obtained work in the oilfield. We lived in Calmar until 1954 when we were transferred to the new oilfield of Drayton Valley.

The family moved in July after the end of the school year. We moved our skid-shack along with three rental skid-shacks to the Hillcrest Trailer Court. At that time Drayton Valley consisted of Blocks Store, Millers Store, Getzingers Store, The Wild Cat Café, men's bunk houses, Red Fuhr's Garage, Tuckers Variety Store, the Anglican Church and Manse, the Church of God, and the school.

There were no places for rent, so people had to move in their own skid-shacks or trailers. The population grew rapidly. There was no power, a well for water, diesel fuel and propane for heat and cooking, coal oil and gas lamps for light, one telephone at Millers Store, and the bank came to town once a week.

The summer of 1954 was very wet and work was at a standstill until the fall. Eventually power was brought in and then a washhouse and showers made life easier. There was a shortage of schools so portable schools were brought in and classes were taught in the Anglican Manse and Scout Hall.

Wally worked for Art Playford, the Pembina News Advertiser – consisting of advertising sheets that were printed and distributed locally from his home, later moving to the Tucker Variety Shope where they eventually printed the paper. The three boys all worked for the P.N.A. until they graduated from high school. Wally joined the RCMP in 1964. He married Adele Mitchell, daughter of Syd and Todd Mitchell. They were stationed in several detachments in the interior of BC until Wally retired in Revelstoke where they still reside. They have three children – Jodi is married to Trevor Wallach and has two children – Jacob and Stefanie, and resides in Revelstoke. Wendi lives in Edmonton, and David lives in Revelstoke.

Russell worked for P.N.A. until graduating, then attended Vancouver Vocational School and was employed with Evergress Press in Vancouver for fifteen years before returning to the Easyford district where he raises quarter horses and works in Edmonton for Jasper Printing.

Gordon also worked for P.N.A. until graduating. He then worked in the oil industry for Amoco and Braidnor. He married Karen (Gossel) Bureyko and they moved back to Drayton Valley with her children Kris and Rachell. They also have two girls Genell and Kelsey and live in the Easyford area and work out of Drayton Valley. Rachelle lives in Montreal, Quebec. Kris, Genell & Kelsey still make Drayton Valley their home.

Bonnie was born in Rimbey, Alberta, as there was no hospital in Drayton Valley at that time. She took her R.N. at the Royal Alex Hospital in Edmonton. She married Gordon Hart, son of Marian and George Hart, and lived in Shaunavon, Sask where sons Steven and Robert were born. They moved to Rocky Mountain House where James was born, and they still reside where.

After a shoulder injury while working on the rigs, George worked for Northwestern Utilities and the DV Curling rink before obtaining the job of Maintenance Man at the DV Hospital, where he worked for sixteen years before retiring in 1983.

I worked for A.G.T from 1958 until it went automatic, then worked for Drs. Waugh and Cameron, later known as the Towers Medical, until retiring in 1975. In 1958, we purchased a lot with sewer and water, and moved our skid-shack from Hillcrest, re-modeled it and still reside at that location 4709 - 50 Street.

SIG. AND RUBY MOLTZAN

Written by Ruby Moltzan

I, Ruby, and my husband Sig., moved to Drayton Valley in July, 1968, from a farm in the Barrhead area. In the fall of '67 we started looking for a new home and business somewhere in Alberta. Sig. had developed arthritis in his back and could no longer ride the tractor; farming became quite difficult.

Our search ended when we discovered in the Edmonton Journal that 'Ernie's Tire Shop", was for sale. Thus we left the farm and moved to Drayton Valley where we rented our first home at 49th Ave. and 49th St. close to the hospital. "Drayton Tire Sales and Service" became our new business. In 1987, we sold our business to "Tirecraft" and have since enjoyed our retirement and traveling.

We have four children. Our oldest Bruce, married Bernice Geres from Summerland, B.C., in 1980. They live in Peace River where Bruce is the Secretary Treasurer of the Peace River School division. They have four children: Melissa, Nathan, Leah, and Richard.

L-R, Brenda, Sig, Ruby, Melvin, Bruce Moltzan, with Lyle in front.

In 1981, our son Melvin married Marie Roedel from Victoria, B.C. They currently reside in Drayton Valley and have three children: Ida-Marie, Kurt, and Neila. Melvin is the owner manager of Carline Muffler. Our daughter Brenda, married Rick. Morie, of Edmonton, in 1984. A couple of months after their marriage, Rick died. Brenda is a lab technologist at the U. of A. hospital, in Edmonton. She enjoys travelling and has been to numerous places.

Our youngest, Lyle, married Rita Swallow of Edmonton, in 1992. They met while teaching in Whitecourt. For the past four years they have been

Moltzan family. L-R, Melvin, Marie, Kurt, Neila, Rita (holding Taylor), Brenda, Ruby, Sig, Leah, Bruce, Bernice, Melissa, Nathon, Rick. Kneeling is Ida Marie.

teaching in Amman, Jordan at an International School. They enjoy travelling and overseas life, but also look forward to coming home for two months each summer. In August of '98 they will be moving to Pretoria, South Africa, to again teach at an International School.

In the spring of 1998, we sold our home, and after 30 years in Drayton Valley we are moving to Edmonton, into "Horizon Harbour" an adult village on the South side. We have many happy memories to take with us, and will always think of Drayton Valley as our home.

WALTER AND ELIZABETH MUELLER

By Lyla (McIntosh) Sleno

Walter Mueller was born April 24, 1924, in Berlin, Germany, where he attended school. In 1939, at the early age of fifteen, he learned a trade and received his mechanics certificate in 1942. Immediately afterwards he had to join the army and served in Russia and the Ukraine. He became a prisoner of war but was released in August of 1945, and returned to war-torn Berlin. He found work and lived with his mother.

Walter met Elizabeth Polcyn, who was born March 20, 1928 in Berlin, and they were married in 1951. Since not much housing was available, they rented a single room with kitchen privileges. Their son Michael was born February 24, 1952. At that time, work was scarce and food not very plentiful, so they decided to immigrate to Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Mueller and their attendants, 1951, in Berlin, Germany

On March 20, 1954, Walter arrived in Halifax by boat. Elizabeth and her son remained in Berlin for six months, until Walter could find suitable employment. He shortly found work near Regina on a farm where he was told to milk cows. Not knowing how to milk, Walter would have about half a cup of milk in his bucket while the farmer milked fifteen cows at the same time. Since this didn't suit the "City-Boy" too much (and perhaps not the farmer either) he landed in Edmonton, having just enough money to pay for his fare. While staying at the immigration facilities in Edmonton, he lived on food stamps and handouts. He finally found a job in Onoway working as a mechanic in a garage and serving gas. He studied English in his spare time and quickly grasped the language. Walter also worked in Grande Centre for a while helping to build the airport.

In July, 1954, Walter's childhood friend and schoolmate Bert Schroeter arrived from Berlin. They both found work with Piggot Pipeline and lived in Millet, later moving to Mameo Beach.

In September, 1954, Elizabeth and little Michael (2½ years) finally arrived. Work on the pipeline was soon finished, so approximately on the 20th of November, the Muellers and their friend Bert arrived in Drayton Valley - lock, stock and barrel. It wasn't long before Walter, Elizabeth and Bert found themselves working at the "Wild Cat Cafe", which was situated across from the Elks Hall. They worked for $25.00 a day, seven days a week, plus some meals. In January, 1955, work was finished for Bert and since he didn't have enough stamps to draw Unemployment Insurance, he was sent to the soup kitchen in Edmonton. He eventually found his way to Vancouver, where he and his family still reside. Between 1955 and May of 1957, Walter drove truck to Whitehorse in the Yukon, loaded with asphalt. He made many trips. He then drove a water truck around Lodgepole for the oil rigs.

Walter Mueller's first tractor

In 1956, the Muellers decided to take out a homestead from the government, NE of Sec 4, Township 50, Range 8 and another quarter SW of Sec 10, Township 50, Range 8 where they still reside. In November, 1956, they lost everything

they owned when a fire ravaged their home. They moved to a shack in Drayton Valley and stayed six months. In the spring of 1957, Walter, with the help of Fred Schollmeir, built a 12 x 24 skid shack on the homestead. When they moved in there were no doors and no window coverings due to lack of money. No electricity and no running water. It wasn't unusual to see bear in their front yard, which was very unnerving to say the least. About this time Elizabeth quit her job at Fairburn boarding house, because she was expecting her second child.

The Mueller's first cow and calf on the homestead

After break-up, Walter started to work for Maloney-Crawford building oil storage tanks. He worked only 2½ days when he had a serious accident while carrying pipe. His head was partially crushed, with numerous facial cuts and bruises. He was unconscious and taken to an Edmonton Hospital. He was unable to work for two years and received the sum of $58.64 per month compensation.

Daughter Renata arrived November 4, 1957, at the old Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. A trip to the city was a real adventure because it often took a whole day. Roads were narrow and very muddy, and quite often one got stuck and had to be pulled out with a Cat. It often took an hour to travel one mile. In the fall when Michael started to school, he had to walk 1¼ miles through a bush trail to catch the school bus to Drayton Valley.

When Renata was a year old, Elizabeth was able to go back to work at the White Bull, and later at Nichols Bakery (now Drayton Bakery) while Walter stayed home and looked after the children. In 1961, Walter, Elizabeth and Michael became Canadian Citizens. A great day!!

Eventually the Mueller family were able to get back on their feet, thanks to the discovery of oil. They bought a few chickens, pigs, geese and their first cow. In 1963, they became official landowners of the two quarters, and it was time for celebration. In 1966, they took their first holiday out to Vancouver to find their long lost friend Bert, and have kept in touch ever since.

Mike, Erika, Elizabeth and Jason, Herbert, Renate and Jade Grace Mueller

Son Michael married Grace Dubineck from Flin Flon, Manitoba in 1971. They have two children - Ericka 24 and Jason 22. Mike and Grace own the "Tall Timber" farm in the Easyford district and together raise Saler cattle. He also owns and operates two caterpillars. Mike is very mechanical, like his father.

Daughter Renata married Hubert Morrison from Kenora, Ontario in 1987 and they reside on the homestead near Easyford. They have two daughters – Jade 6 years and Madison one year old. Hubert has his own business "Last Chance Trucking" and K.C.M. Containment Systems Ltd.

Walter and Elizabeth are also blessed with a great grandchild, Samantha 3 years old. For the last

Elizabeth Mueller making sauerkraut

22 years they have become 'snow birds' and spend their winters in Mexico. The Muellers can tell you lots of interesting stories of their lives, not only in Drayton Valley, but while living in Berlin as well. If you are lucky enough to be invited to their home for supper, plan on having a lot of laughs and staying until the wee hours of the morning, as it is truly very hard to get away.

TERENCE PATRICK (TERRY) MULGREW

Written by Terry Mulgrew

Born on April, 8 1934, in Govan, Glasgow, Scotland. Second son to Patrick Mulgrew, a coal merchant who grew up at the Craig, Pomeroy, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland and Ellen (Hughes) Mulgrew, whose parent moved to Glasgow from Armagh City, County Armagh, Northern Ireland. Had one older brother Jim, later followed Frank, Rose, John, Tom, Patricia, and Eileen.

Terry and Brigid Mulgrew

At age five (November, 1939), due to the fact that we lived close to the major shipyards, which were targets for bombs, Jim and I were sent to our grandparents, James and Margaret Mulgrew at Craig, Pomeroy.

In 1944, dad bought a farm at Gortnagarn, one mile from Pomeroy, where Jim, Frank and I worked the farm before and after school as dad was in Glasgow most of the time delivering coal by horse and cart. Later on he got a truck.

Those were pleasant days in Northern Ireland as good neighbours, Catholic and Protestant, helped each other. We worked together in the fields planting and digging spuds, making hay, threshing, milking and all the other chores. When there was time, we played football in the fields together. Recent years have been a sad and tragic time for all the people in Northern Ireland. I pray sincerely that that situation will soon change.

At age 14, I finished regular school at Pomeroy and went to college at Dungeon Technical School (10 miles away) for two years. After graduating in 1950, I went to Glasgow to serve a five year apprenticeship in Practical Electrical Engineering.

On the completion of apprenticeship, I decided to go to Canada for a few years. So on January 6, 1956, I set sail from Southhhampton on the big ship, "SS Fraconia", which sailed to Halifax. The trip took 11 days, over very rough, cold water with 30 foot waves most of the way. I was one of a small group who showed up for meals on a regular basis. From Halifax, I took the train to Calgary, a five day trip. When the train stopped at Winnipeg for a half hour stop, I decided to get off the hot train to stretch my legs. I stepped out in my white shirt, tie and suit, but something hit me hard. I could hardly breathe, so I got back on the train and was told it was 40 below. I wondered how I could get back home again, quickly, but I had no money so I continued to Calgary. I stayed with my dad's brother, uncle Tom Mulgrew, his wife Mary and five of their nine children, still at home at 546-14 Ave SW.

From there, I walked around Calgary looking for a job. I soon found out my electrical Engineering Certificate was not recognized here. However, I was very fortunate to get hired at T. Eaton Co., engineering department, at 8 Ave. and 4 St. SW, just six blocks from where I lived. So I spent two years at Eatons as an apprentice electrician. I attended SAIT for two months each year and also worked for four hours per week on evenings and weekends. So I got my Alberta 1st class Electrician's certificate. I was then anxious to see more of the country and get a variety of experience in the electrical trade. I got a job as maintenance electrician with Eldorado Mining and Refining at their Port Radium, NWT, uranium mine. It was a nine month contract, and we worked seven days a week, ten hours a day. I lived in a large bunkhouse at the mine site and on the shore of Great Bear Lake. The only way in or out

was on the company's DC3 plane, so you stayed put. When I got back to Calgary, in May 1958, I decided to go home for a few months to visit my family. I traveled a bit around Ireland and Scotland. It was then I met my fate.

At a dance one night, I met Brigid O'Hagen of Meenagh, Coalisland, County Tyrone (12 miles from where I had lived at Pomeroy). She fell in love with my white sport jacket and we got engaged before I returned to Canada.

So, how the hell did you wind up in Drayton Valley, people would ask? I answered an ad in the paper for an electrician with Mobil Oil, and got the job, but almost didn't make it to Drayton Valley. I left Edmonton early, one mild November 1959, morning. Highway 16 was glare ice. I was petrified, but too scared to turn back. The ice ran out when I hit the mud just south of Highway 16, so I made it to Mobil Oil offices at D.V. They told me to go see if I could find a place to stay and I did at Helen's Boarding house on 50 St. by the lumber yard. I wondered if I could last a year or two in D.V.

I soon began to like D.V. Everyone was so friendly and helpful. A few months after arriving, I thought I was in heaven. I got a room, all to myself, with Jack and Kathy Bright, and sons John and Rick. Jack was the postmaster. I soon became part of the family. That was a wonderful experience, which I will never forget.

Then came the problem with Brigid. She was due to arrive from Ireland on April 1, 1960. Where would she stay? By some stroke of luck, I found her a room at the home of Howard and Eleanor Pickup and sons Gordon and Mark. To this day we are proud to have Kathy Bright and Eleanor Pickup as two of our dearest friends.

Brigid did arrive on April 1. I picked her up at the Edmonton Muni, in my nice '57 Chev. When we reached D.V. it was dark brown, even on the roof. When Eleanor saw Brigid in her nice fluffy, flowery dress and high heels, she took her downtown to get some clothes and D.V. oxfords.

As the only relatives we had here were in Calgary, Brigid and I got married there at the St. Mary's Cathedral (my parish when I lived there) on July 9, 1960.

So we settled into married life in D.V. and made many good friends very quickly. We bought a 12x24 skidshack on 47 St., a few doors from the hospital. Brigid got a job as a nurse's aide. On April 28, 1961, our first daughter Susan Marie was born. Life was good, regardless of the mud. Neighbours were good. The people we worked with, or went to church with, or met at the many social functions were fantastic. No class distinction, no religious hatred in D.V. Everyone was equal, from the district superintendent, to the rough neck, we all loved D.V. In 1962, I built a split level house on the corner of 50 Ave. and 47 St., just across from the hospital. It was handy for church and hospital. Shortly after that, Brigid's niece Bernadette McCann came over from Ireland to become a part of our family.

Front Row, L to R, Dean, Patrick and Darren. Back Row, Terry, Susan and Brigid Mulgrew

In March, 1964, I quit my job at Mobil Oil, and started T. M. Electric Ltd. on my own. But things kept getting busier, so I had to hire more and more people. Of course, over the years work fluctuated drastically, so we had to adjust up and down with the local economy. The introduction of the National Energy Program in the early '80's was a drastic blow to D.V. and the area, and eventually the whole of Canada., so by 1987, I thought I would try something different. Brigid and I bought the Bio Vista Motel in Wainwright, and operated it until April, 1998. After leaving Wainwright, we cruised around all summer, visiting family and friends and scouting for a business. We bought the Park House Shopping Center office and retail building at 48 St. and 50 Ave. in Stony Plain, and took possession on October 15, 1998. We also bought a condo unit at Sunrise Village in Stony Plain.

In 1963, I was elected to a committee of St. Anthony's Church, to form a separate school district. We proceeded to buy land from Lylle Beckett and arranged to have the school built. Then along with Dean Meraw, Betty McGee, Louis Serenas and John Shanley , we formed the school board to operate the school. I served on the board for ten years.

On March 26, 1965, our son Patrick Terence was born, followed by Dean Francis on October 4, 1966, and Darren Joseph on November 14, 1967.

Berni married Juergen Abendroth. They have Craig and Karen and still live in D.V. Susan married Mike Coughlan and have Brian, Maria, Mark and

Siobhan and now live on an acreage just out of Stony Plain. Patrick married Roxanne (Rocky) Winder and have Terence, Patrick and Shawney. They still live out of D.V. on a ¼ section. Dean married Dawn Wright from Plenty, Saskatchewan and have Scott. They live where the old drive in theatre was in D.V. Darren married Caron Grey from Calgary, and have Mikayla and Brendan. They live in Edson, where Darren operates Celtic Controls Inc., an instrumental service.

It was a lot of fun over the years. There was always lots of things for kids to be involved in. We have many fond memories of swim meets in summer, hockey, skiing and curling in winter, to name a few. I think D.V. was the finest, healthiest place in the world for kids to grow up.

I also got involved in many other activities in D.V, St. Anthony's Church Choir, usher, parish council, and Knights of Columbus. A director and Zone chairman of the Yellowhead P.C. Association, working with a great Canadian and the countries most respected politician, the Right Honourable Joe Clark and wife Maureen. That was a tremendous and very pleasant experience for me. I was elected to D.V. town council in October, 1977, and served three years with that very dedicated lady, Mayor Nevis LaBranche. I served as chairman of several committees, also two years as vice-chairman, and one year as chairman of the Spruce Valley Asphalt board, that asphalt plant operation owned by the towns of D.V. and Spruce Grove. I had the unique experience in 1978, to chair a joint meeting of both town councils, to iron out some problems with the plant operation. Everything went okay, no punches were thrown (maybe a few verbal). That was a very hectic three years. It was a very demanding but rewarding experience. Due to demands of my business, I did not run for town council again.

So here we are at this time (early November, 1998) just getting settled in our home in Stony Plain, and getting the new business organized. Brigid and I look forward to many trips to D.V. to visit our family and the many dear friends we still have there. So hope we run into all of you real soon. I still refer to D.V. as my home town. God bless all and take good care.

LORNE E. AND MERNA E. NELSON

Written by Merna E. Nelson

In August of 1961, Lorne Nelson and his older brother Robert (Bob) Nelson bought the Green 'T' Texaco Service Station in Drayton Valley, Alberta. Bob & Lorne boarded at a Mrs. Green's until such time as Bob was able to move his family out from Edmonton. Meanwhile, Lorne's family moved from Calgary to Ponoka for 6 months until the unfinished home purchased in Drayton Valley was completed.

The end of February, possibly the coldest month of the winter, saw us moving into our new home in Drayton Valley. The temperature was somewhere around 25 or 30 below zero Fahrenheit! Since it was almost too cold to even be outside, we 'bumped' into town arriving at the Service Station on a flat tire!

Ritchie (Andrew) Scott, Patti (Dawn) – was a bridesmaid. Jeffrey with parents, Merna and Lorne Nelson

Another brother, Morley, and family arrived the same evening and had to bunk at brother Bob's as the water pipes in the house they had rented had frozen and broken. Some introduction to their new home. Thank goodness ours was air tight or we might have had wall to wall kids at brother Bob's.

Not too sure but believe it was the next day, a Saturday, saw a 'gentleman' from 'Moody's' arrive at the house and proceed to put an antenna on the roof so our children could watch the Saturday cartoons! Certainly saved my sanity for the next few weeks while trying to settle into our new home. With four children, the oldest Scott having just turned 6 in Feb., it was a busy time keeping them occupied until they got to know some of the neighborhood children. And what a spring, with no lawn for them to play on, most days were spent washing muddy clothes, only to repeat the process the next day until the yard managed to dry enough to get a lawn started.

(Andrew) Scott was able to attend kindergarten for 3 months, so that helped, giving him a chance to meet some friends his own age before starting Grade 1, in the fall (1962/63), Ritchie turned 5 in July so was able to go to kindergarten full time for the 1962/63 season. This left Jeffrey (3½ years) and his little sister, Patti (Dawn), 2 years old, at home.

In May of 1963, Lorne had his younger brother, Harvey, (a TV technician), move up to Drayton

Valley. Together, they opened a TV shop called "Northern Video Electronics Ltd" on main street between the White Bull Cafe and Copeman's Shoe Store. Between these Nelson fellows and Mr. Bill Copeman some strange pranks took place around these shops. The TV shop was formerly a clothing store and one day some nude mannequins were found leaning over the front roof top of the shoe store. Needless to say, the shoe store received some mighty strange looks for awhile that afternoon until a certain owner finally ventured outside to investigate! Sometime later, the Nelson's found their TV Shop's back door blocked. In retaliation Bill Copeman had piled empty shoe boxes, to cover the door and then backed his van up against the boxes, blocking the door. Took a trip around into the alley to find out what the problem was. Another time, Harvey sneaked a two-way radio into the shoe store, hiding it behind the shoe boxes on a shelf. When they knew Bill was alone in the shop, Harvey or Lorne would talk quietly into the radio, saying 'let me out of here. They certainly had Bill going for awhile, until he caught on to why they were popping in to visit him more often than they usually did. Later, they moved up the street by the Treasury Branch.

Northern Video Electronics Ltd., with new van parked in front

Now there were 4 brothers in town. With 3 wives (4th divorced) and now with a couple of additions, a total of 12 Nelson children were around most of time and another 4 Nelson children where around part of the time. I'm afraid we confused some folks as the wives, bills and some cheques somehow got totally rearranged at times. Someone was always asking which wife belonged to which Nelson and which kids belonged to whom.

While in Drayton Valley, Lorne belonged to the Lions Club, the Curling Club and was on the executive of Curling Club for awhile. I joined the Art Club which I really enjoyed and was on the executive for a couple of years. But most of my time was spent at home looking after our home and the children. Also I did a lot of sewing, making clothes for the children and myself. All 3 boys joined Cubs, and were able to attend Cub camp just before we moved. Patti (Dawn) took tap dance lessons while in Grade 1, our last year. in Drayton Valley. And of course, all the children took swimming lessons which they continued after we moved to Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Lorne & I have both been involved with the curling club in Grande Prairie, Lorne was President for many years after holding other jobs on the executive. I was the Ladies Curling Historian for some 12 years. Over the years I took pictures for both the curling & golfing clubs for their history books. When Lorne retired from the Texaco Bulk Plant, Grande Prairie, in 1990, he also resigned from the curling executive after some 20 years on the board.

Now we spend the 5 winter months of the year in Arizona, visiting old and new friends there, while golfing as many courses as we can and doing lots of sight-seeing. During the summer we tour around the countryside in our 5th Wheel, golfing and visiting friends and relations, from Saskatchewan to Vancouver Island. Even a few side trips to States during the summer as Lorne still has relatives in South Dakota & Montana.

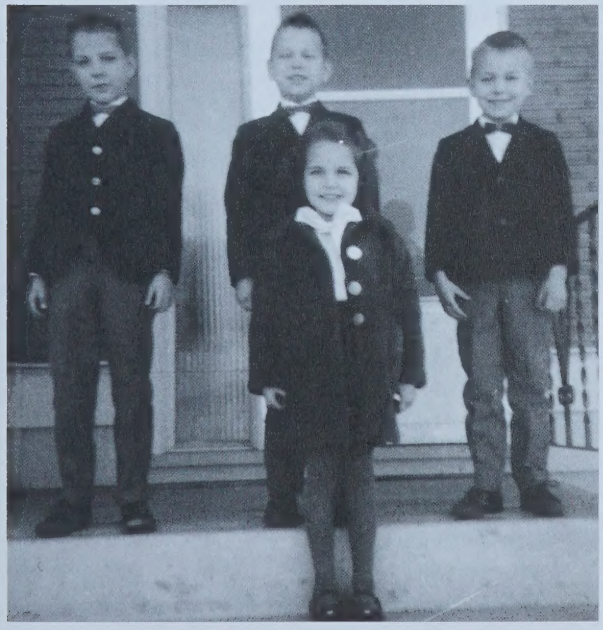
The Big Wheels! Lorne (left), and Bob Nelson, 1962 or 1963

Speaking of relations I have been tracing my family tree for some 30 years. now and am a Charter member of the Grande Prairie & District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society. Our club just celebrated its 20th Anniversary. Since Lorne's 'Nelson Family' history has been done by a cousin as far back as Norway, I can concentrate on my own lines. I have found several family connections in the past

few years, so am collecting more information all the time. I have also been a 'fringe' member of the Grande Prairie Oil Wives Club since the fall 1967 and an "Honorary Fringe" member since 1990.

It's hard to remember all the jobs the boys had before getting to where they are today: Ritchie & Jeff are both driving truck for their father here and other companies in or near Edmonton. These two also worked at the Can-For plant during High School, while Scott worked at the Greyhound Bus Depot for several years during and after high school. Their sister, Patti Dawn, was a Candy Striper at the hospital. Fifteen students from the Grade 9 Art Class including Patti Dawn were chosen to design and make a mural from ceramic tiles for the Grande Prairie Recplex foyer to commemorate the Anniversary of the R.C.M.P. in 1974. Over the years, each has tried one sport or another such as baseball, soccer, curling, golfing & skiing.

Last fall, (Andrew) Scott moved from Grande Prairie to Kelowna, and is working with his younger brother Jeff in an Electric Rewind Business. Scott completed high school, a couple of years. of college, taken accounting (computer) courses and has a good knowledge of computers; helped a local video company tape weddings, local Theatre groups plays, etc. Scott worked at different jobs in Edmonton before returning to Grande Prairie to help his father set up his business on computer as all the Oil companies were doing in the 1980's. Scott loves biking & canoeing in the summer, and takes lots of pictures whenever possible.



(Andrew) Scott, Ritchie, Jeffrey and Patti (Dawn) Nelson off to Sunday school

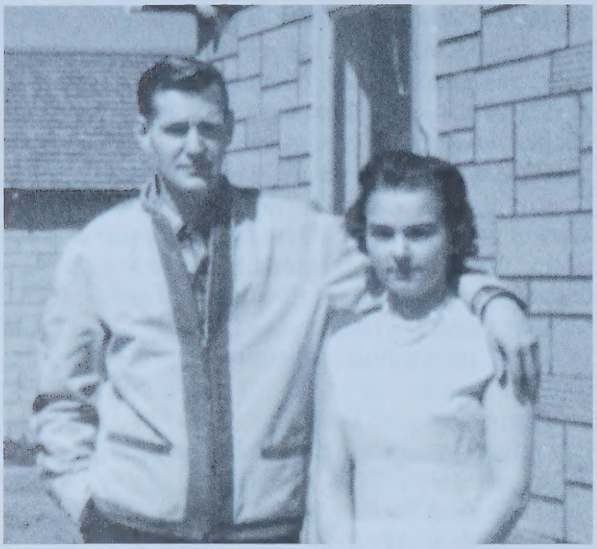
Ritchie, his wife Vickie (Wyant) have 7 yr. old twin sons, Curtis & Justin, and their little brother, Riley, just 2½ years old. They moved from near Ft. Saskatchewan to the Cameron Heights Subdivision about 4 miles north of Spruce Grove, last fall. This puts them much closer to their "Fast Forward" Courier Business based in the Industrial Park on the west of St. Albert. From home, Vickie goes on line to the office which enables her to do most of the computer posting of statements while still at home with the children. They enjoy skidooing in winter & joined us on a couple of camping trips during the summer.

Jeffrey, his wife Diane (Johnson) have 13 yr. old Brittany, 9 yr. old Jordan, and their little sister Teirney, just 2½ yr. old. They have lived in Grande Prairie, Surrey & Langley, B.C. before moving to Kelowna about 1992. At this time, Jeffrey is in the process of buying out his father-in-law's interest in "Central Electric" Rewind Business. Mr. Johnson would like to retire, having worked in this business in Kelowna for many years. Jeff is also a Ski Patrol at "Big White" during the winter. His wife, Diane, has returned to work as an aerobic instructor, and is now at "The Women's Place" on Springfield Rd. in Kelowna. This family also loves camping so have come along and joined us on different occasions, along with 'Auntie Dawn' and 'Uncle Scott'.

(Patricia) Dawn drove coffee truck after high school, and was a consul-operator for a self-serve gas station before landing a job working in a printing shop called "Starriest Printers', here in Grande Prairie. Then she worked for "Focus Publishing" where they printed the paper called "The Booster". From there Dawn moved to Edmonton and worked at printing company's called "Crown", then "Dial" and "AM International" before being called to work at "Xerox", where she has been for last 5 years. This past Feb. at the Xerox headquarters in Virginia, Dawn was chosen No.1 Color Analyst for Canada and was runner-up for the Western Hemisphere.

If a couple of our boys had had their way we would never have left Drayton Valley, as they were very upset with their father when he informed them of the move in the spring of 1967. Before the day was over, Scott and Ritchie were leaving home and moving in with their friends. Jeff & Patti Dawn were still thinking the situation over & hadn't expressed an opinion either way. The only consolation was that their Uncle Bob, Aunt Shirley, cousins, Wayne, Keith, Daryl & Sheri Lyn were also joining us in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

It's hard to believe that over 30 years have gone by since we lived in your fair town. We still enjoy visits to the Drayton Valley area, seeing some of the



Lorne and Merna Nelson

families we still know, especially the Samis families; and seeing all the changes that have taken place over the years.

ALEX & VICKY NEKOLAICHUK

Alex Nekolaichuk worked for Regent Drilling south of Violet Grove in 1955. On his 2 days off (long change) he went back to Edmonton to get married to Vickie Stasiuk on August 9, 1955. He returned with his bride. A short time after she asked where the bus was. He replied "You will have a long wait as there is no bus out here". "I refuse to live here, I want to go home," said Vicky. He said, "You're married now, this is your home", and 42 years later, we're still here. We grew to love Drayton Valley and area and all its changes over the years. Our 3 children (girls) grew up in Drayton Valley. Two children still live here and one lives in Vancouver, B.C. (Gail, Shelley and Lorie).

Alex and Vickie Nekolaichuk

Gail, Lorie, Vickie and Shelly Nekolaichuk

Alex started his own business, Jet Steam Cleaning Ltd., in 1962, with one pressure truck. The company later grew to steamers, hot oilers and rod cleaning and employed several people. In 1978 he tried something different and opened up a Big Truck & Car Wash. Alex loves oilfield work and people. Alex was one of the first to raise buffalo in Drayton Valley and still has buffalo today. Alex also likes farming and putting up hay for buffalo and wild boar. After he tried to retire he switched to the wild boar and has a lot to do now, fencing and refencing as they have the habit of getting out. Just ask the neighbours. He also tried his hand at a sawmill he built. All I got out of that was the lumber for our garage which was not quite the answer for Alex, so for relaxation he built a chalet at his fish pond. Vickie teased him about this by saying that everyone fishes except him. He says that he loves to watch the fish and feeding them relaxes him, but sometimes he will throw in a line to catch fish, as he loves to eat fish (trout). It is a beautiful spot and very quiet.

Jet Steam Cleaning Ltd. 1962

Alex Nekolaichuk with the wild Boar

Alex has tried everything from flying to farming and enjoys what he does. Alex flew to the Arctic Circle in his single engine plane. When he needs something fixed, out comes the welder. He does all his own repairs on machinery. He also built a tire turner and a snowblower. He loves to keep busy.

Vickie raised the children and later helped Alex do the books for Jet Steam and fencing for the buffalo and wild boar. Now I try to paint (oil paint) pictures or I play with our grandchildren. I go to the farmers' market on Wednesdays or to craft sales. We love to travel when we can.

At first it was hard but we have a good life here and a beautiful family, and that what it's all about, right?

Buffalo

OTTO AND ANNEMARIE NICKEL

Submitted by Annemarie Nickel

Otto immigrated from Germany in 1953 and I followed in 1956. We were married in 1957 and lived in Edmonton until 1960. In May of 1960 we moved to Drayton Valley to purchase the bakery from Repkas. Otto was a journeyman baker by trade from Germany. Our first home in Drayton Valley was a skidshack 18 feet by 24 feet. At that time, when it rained the whole town and around became a mud hole.

Otto and Annemarie Nickel, daughters Rosalie and Carol

In 1962, we purchased the Solo Store which was located on the corner of 50 St and 50 Ave from Ernie Bernes. We named the store Nickel Supermarket. We lived above the store for four years. Clerk's wages were 75 cents to 1 dollar an hour. Campbell's soup was two tins for 37 cents. Peaches were 29 cents a pound. Grapes were 39 cents a pound. Banannas sold for 27 cents a pound and apples for 19 cents. Watermelon was a mere 9 cents a pound and tomatoes went for 39 cents a pound.

Otto's sister, Crete and her husband Karl Heinz Schnepper came in as partners in the bakery and the grocery store from 1962 to 1966. They then moved back to Edmonton.

In July, 1962 our daughter Rosalie was born and in 1967, Carol was born. In 1965 we purchased our first real house from Elnar and Mary Buchholz. It was located close to the United Church. In 1966, we sold the Nickel Supermarket to John and Pearl Getzinger. We understood that many years before that the store was owned by John Getzinger's parents.

Annemarie in the bakery. Bread was 21cents. Doughnuts and cinnamon buns were 60 cents a dozen or 6 cents each. Tarts and squares were 10 cents

In May of 1969 we sold the bakery to Walter Hesselbarth and his son Harold and wife June. Harold and June were still there when this story was written. In 1970 we purchased the Mar Nel's Ladies Wear store from Mary and Alfred Kublick. The building was built not long before that on the right side of the bakery. I am a dressmaker and tailor, having learned my trade in Germany. That gave us confidence to be in the ladies wear business. Clerk's wages were $2.50 an hour.

Otto making doughnuts

We liked living in a small town like Drayton Valley. Otto was an active Rotary member for six years and for two years served as president. Otto was also involved in with the Retail Merchants Association. I was active in the Lutheran Church. Otto and I also enjoyed bowling, Rotary and church activities and visiting with friends. Our daughters enjoyed school, skating, swimming and church activities.

Otto and Annemarie in their Mar Nels clothing store 1970

In 1974 Ervin and Dorothy Rendflesh became partners in Mar Nels Ladies Wear. In 1975 we purchased a ladies wear store in Hinton and moved there. Later, we sold our share of Mar Nels to Ervin and Dorothy. In 1986 we moved from Hinton to Edmonton and semi-retired. Since 1996 we have been fully retired. Carol is married to Gerry Schoen and they have a son Trevor and live in Edmonton. Rose also lives in Edmonton.

Drayton Valley will not be forgotten and we still associate and visit with friends from there.

The Nickels' bakery on 51 Ave were it is still today. United Electric was downstairs

The Solo Store known as Nickel Supermarket 1963

ERIKA & OSKAR OBST

Erika was born at Maltch on the River Oder, East Germany on December 1, 1922. Oscar was born in Marechwitz, East Germany, May 11, 1916. They were married in 1941 and five children were born in Germany.

Because of the Russian invasion, Erika and Oskar had to flee their homes and leave everything behind. In 1952 Oskar made his way to Canada and Erika soon followed in 1953. Their first home was in McNutt, Saskatchewan where they worked for a farmer nearby; and Gaby was born.

The Obst family came to the Drayton Valley area in 1956. Erika recalls that because of the mud, a caterpillar had to pull the vehicles from Highway 16 south towards Drayton Valley. She chuckles at the thought that they had arrived wearing white shoes! They lived in various homes around Lodgepole and Violet Grove. During that time three more children were born.

Their children:	Grandchildren:
Karen (Paul) Klan	Terry, Dennis
Karl Heinz (deceased)	
Angela (Sig) Sowada (deceased)	Christine, Michael
Tom (Terry)	Robert, Brian, Keith, Roy, Brent
Jerry (Irene)	Eren, Justin
Gaby (Milt) Capps	Shannon, Steven
Evelyn Obst	
Norman (Wendy)	
Charlie (Phyllis)	Kristopher, Nicholas, Jennifer, Rachael

In 1964, Oskar and Erika purchased SE 15-48-9 W5 for $25 on a conditional homestead sale. The farm provided most of their food: beef, pork, fowl and vegetables. Erika made sure everyone kept warm with lots of handknitted clothing.

Oskar worked on the drilling rigs until the mid sixties and then was employed by Flint Construction. He also worked on the construction of the Brazeau Dam.

Oskar and Erika moved into Drayton Valley in 1975. Oskar retired from Flint in 1980. In 1984 they moved to Penticton, BC where Oskar passed away in January, 1993. Erika now resides in Drayton Valley and has four great-grandchildren.

ARNOLD AND DONNA OLSEN

Submitted by Donna Olsen

I was born in 1941, to Gerald & Evelyn Guy of Star City, Sask. I had two older brothers. My dad passed away suddenly in 1961, my mother in 1986, and a brother, Glenn, in 1997. My brother Harold lives in Prince Albert. I graduated from high school in 1959, and attended Robinson Business College in Saskatoon. In May of 1962, I married Arnold Olson in Melfort, Sask.

Arnold is the eldest son of Oscar & Margaret Olson, born in Star City in 1939.

His grandparents came from Norway to the States, then to Canada. Arnold's parents and brothers still reside in Star City. He took his schooling in Star City, graduating in 1957. Arnold became a journeyman electrician in 1962, and was employed at Tisdale Electric. In 1963, we moved to Langenburg, where Arnold followed the construction of the Potash Mines, working also at Lanigan, and Viscount.

In January, 1970, we received a call from a friend who was working in Drayton Valley. At that time we were living in Viscount, a small potash town, east of Saskatoon. This call was in regard to a job, wanting "a man and a truck" for oilfield work. Needless to say, after much discussion, Arnold was off to Drayton Valley where he started work with Electrical Contractors. Two months later we loaded our camper, hooked on to a small pull trailer, packed with our belongings, and with two girls and two cats in the cab of the truck we were off to our new home. My first recollection of Drayton Valley as we were approaching, was being able to see the lights of the town for miles, and thinking we were never going to arrive. In 1970, the housing was very scarce and our camper was pretty small so off we went to Edmonton trading our camper on a 19-foot holiday trailer. We parked our new little home in a trailer court where the Derrick Mall is today. Later that year we purchased a mobile home and moved to the Poplar Ridge Trailer Park. Our next move was to a lot on 44th street that we rented from Jack Starling . By this time we had bought land, SE¼ 30-48-7 W5th, in the Violet Grove area from Mr Leo Look and were busy clearing bush. Mr. Look lived in the little house by the road until the opening of the Shangri-la Lodge. After many hours of clearing and many wiener roasts, we had a drive way and a spot to park our mobile, which we moved out in1972 – in the mud!!. We purchased a modular home in1974. It was a very wet fall, so once again we battled the mud to get our home on the foundation. We still reside on the farm today and run a cow calf operation.

Arnold managed Bouchard Electric until 1984, when at that time we started AMO Electric. We sold this business in 1997, and now operate a picker truck under the name of AMO Holdings.

In 1971, I started work at the dentist office, for Dr. Shimbashi and was employed there until 1985. In 1986, I began work at the Health Unit at which I am still casual today. We have enjoyed our life in Drayton Valley, spending many hours with 4-H as our girls were growing up, active in the church, the Elks and Royal Purple. We still like to curl, snowmobile, and have a great interest in antique vehicles.

Our daughter, Darci, was born in 1963, in Melfort, Sask. Pamela was born in 1966, in Lanigan, Sask. and Shawna was born in 1973 here in Drayton Valley. All three girls graduated from Frank Maddock High School. Darci married Robert

Cox, and they have two sons Landen 12 and Daylen 10. They reside in the Drayton Valley area. Pam married Manny Albert and they have two daughters, Shaylee 4 and Caprice 2, and they reside in St. Albert. Shawna married Kevin Vig and they also reside in the D.V. area.

We, like everyone else, have seen great changes over the years. It doesn't seem to rain quite so much; if it does the mud isn't quite so gooey!!

We live in a great community with great neighbors and friends, and are very happy to call Drayton Valley "OUR HOME".

LES AND INEZ (BLOCK) OSCAR

Les Oscar was born on September 1, 1911 in Bagley, Minnesota and came to Kyle, Saskatchewan with his family in 1913. The family then moved to the Easyford area in 1929, where they homesteaded along the Pembina River. He met Inez Block when he was sent to pick up the new teacher at the bus station, and married her in 1939. They had two children and one on the way when Les went overseas in 1942. He and his brother Morris were in the Canadian Ordanance section of the army. He served in England, France, Holland, Italy, and Germany before returning home in December 1946.

L to R, Back – Tom, Bob, Ted, Sharon, Ian, Carmen, Front – Anne, Les, Inez, Rick Oscar

While he was overseas Inez purchased the Easyford General Store and Post Office. Les had managed the store for a year for its previous owners during the 1930's. Les worked at various jobs after the war. He was a maintenance man at the Armed Forces base in Wainwright for a time then came back to Drayton Valley as a carpenter, and cooked in lumber camps. He worked at the store in Easyford where he built a larger home for his family, and also in the arctic where he cooked for a summer for a geological survey group.

In 1963 Les and Inez sold the store and moved into Drayton Valley. Les and his brother Morris worked as carpenters here and later he worked at the Drayton Valley Hotel. In 1972 Inez was working for AGT in Drayton Valley when they closed the local office. Inez was transferred to Edmonton so they moved. Les worked for eight years as a tap man at the Lincoln Hotel. In 1980 they retired and moved to their property at Alberta Beach where they had two lots and a house. In 1989 when Les' eyesight deteriorated to the extent that he could no longer drive they moved back to be near their family in Drayton Valley.

Centre Front – Inez and Les Oscar and grand-children – 40th Anniversary

Les enjoyed playing cards with his family and at the Senior's Centre – providing he won. He played rummy, Aces to Kings, Crib and Whist, but wouldn't learn Bridge as he considered it a women's game. He also liked fishing, especially at Lac Ste. Anne. Among his other fishing skills was his ability to troll across the ice behind his skidoo. He won a gold medal in Shuffleboard in the Zone Play-offs at the Seniors Games while at Alberta Beach. Like many of the extended Oscar clan he loved music and was a born singer who could sing harmonies easily.

He became ill with Alzheimer's in 1996 and was admitted to Drayton Hospital Long Term Care until his death.

Les and Inez have eight children; 5 sons and 3 daughters: Ted, Bob, Sharon, Carmen, Anne, Rick, Ian, and Tom, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

MIKE PACINDA

Submitted by Walter Turiak

Mike Pacinda immigrated to Canada from

Czechoslovakia in 1929 with his brother in law, Pete Uler. He left his wife and two daughters behind because he didn't have enough money for the ship tickets. In 1933, he homesteaded in the Violet Grove area on a quarter section NW 7-48-8-5 and built a small house of hewed logs, and plastered it with clay mixed with straw. He cleared land by hand during the summer. In the winters, he worked in the logging camps in the Buck Creek area, at a $1.50 a day in the 1930's. He earned enough money to bring his wife and daughters to Canada. But WWII started in September, 1939, so that was the end of his dream. He bought a team of horses and a cow so he would have milk and butter.

Mike stayed on the homestead, raised a few pigs, and grew a big garden. He would borrow a rifle to hunt wild game for meat. He had owned a .22 rifle and a 20.25 rifle, but the police confiscated them because he wasn't a Canadian citizen when the war started. In the summer of 1947, he finally arranged passage for his wife, a widowed daughter and a grandson. They arrived in Canada the middle of July, 1947. As luck would have it, he fell from a hayloft and broke his arm. His wife didn't like living on the homestead, so she and her daughter left. They moved to Vancouver, BC, where a brother was living, got a job and earned enough money to go back to Czechoslovakia. Mike stayed on the homestead. Mobil Oil drilled two oil wells on his land in 1956. In the beginning of the 1960's, he sold his land to Mike Mikulin, but lived in his house until he moved to the Shangri La Lodge in Drayton Valley. Mr. Pacinda lived there until he passed away toward the end of 1970.

I REMEMBER THEE

Rose Pare

I came to Drayton Valley to visit. My husband Edmond Paré and Amedie Dupperon arrived a couple of months before I did. I had never heard from them. We didn't have a phone on our farm. But seeing it was a different style of work, my husband was laid up with a sore back.

When I came out on the bus, it rained all the way. When I got to Drayton Valley, there was mud all over. I felt like going back to the farm. What a trip! I stopped at the old Hotel. Was it ever busy! There were people running all the time. Then I met Ben Herold and he offered me a job to clean the bunk house. Well, I did it for a little while, but it wasn't what I really wanted to do. There were workers gone to work, others on night shift, and other's sleeping. It was a mess. I was offered a job at the Hotel in the kitchen so I took it and worked there. The name of the boss in the kitchen was Louis, and I didn't get along with him very well. I walked out on him once, and that was the way it was until Ross Carter asked me to come back. He made the pay cheques.

I had never seen so many people in my whole life. There were people all over: 18 waitresses, 9 cooks, and 5 dish washers. It was something else, but a person got used to it. The place was full all the time and at lunch you wouldn't believe it – boxes and box lunches all over. June Chow was a wonderful person to work for. Then I started waitressing. Boy, that was something else again. When I was on night shift, I was scared of people who had too much to drink. After all that time on the farm, I didn't know what to say. I know if it was now I would throw it at them. I was so afraid, I would shake all over because I wouldn't know what to say. June kept telling me to tell them off! So I started out very slowly. Now I laugh about it. Then, that was enough. I worked upstairs. We used to have to scrape the mud off the floors before we could sweep. The rooms were full all the time. I worked there for eight years then went to the White Bull and worked nine off and on. They were good to work for. So Drayton wasn't all that bad after all!

We bought Dale Clarks place for $500.00 and I've been there since 1963. We had lived in Western Trailer Court for 7½ years where the mall is today.

MARK AND LAREE PICKUP

Written by Mark Pickup

My earliest memories of Drayton Valley are of my parents home, the quiet order and gentle cultivation. It was in sharp contrast to the mud and oil of an Alberta boom town of the 1950's. Our home was heated with propane. A large propane tank sat in our yard and I used to sit on the tank – cowboy hat on head, holster on hip, yelling at the tank "geddi yup – Wooh little doggies." Mud was a playmate to a 3 year old, much to my mother's consternation. She usually stopped me at the door, stripping me to the underwear (actually the clothes "pealed" off me). Actually mud was a way of life in Drayton Valley, it's all I knew. MUD! Glorious MUD!

There was a tether post for horses uptown and another at Block's old store site near the Anglican Church. A community billboard was located close and served as information and news for the area. I couldn't read but stood beside the adults while they read the "news" gruntin "HMM! Well, I'll be!" They'd shift from foot to foot shaking off clumps of mud as they read.

Storms of pitch black smoke were burned off flare-sites daily. It was before the environment was a concern (and years later) I've wondered whether a

steady breathing of air in such an environment might have contributed to my M.S. Who knows?

I remember my father and other Rotarians building the Rotary Park Playground. The excitement of it all. My buddies and I stood on the sidelines watching the Dads cement swings and monkeybars into the ground. That playground still exists. Many of the original pieces still operational.

The Christmas Concert was a major event. It was held at the Scout Hall. We children would memorize Christmas poems drilled by Moms. We mounted the stage on concert night, palms sweating, butterflies churned in our stomachs, then recite ten lines of seasonal poetry to polite applause. The community was there. Turkey supper, pudding and traditional Christmas fixins came next. Santa would stumble into the hall with presents for the children. About 10:00 pm, my family would leave into the bitter December weather, stomachs full and hearts aglow.

My memories of Drayton Valley during the 50's and 60's were of a tight community, good hearted people and wholesome fun. People like "Shorty", "Buster" and "Ed" were the town characters, but included in town life just the same.

Were there bad things that happened? Yes, but I rarely think of them, choosing instead to remember Drayton Valley's goodness, of which there was a vast amount.

From 1959-1967, I attended the Drayton Valley School System. My memories of elementary school (present Eldorado) included weekly noon-hour trips to the Getzinger Corner Store (present 7-ELEVEN Food Store.) It was dark and dingy but had a good selection of LIK – A MAID, licorice and chocolate bars.

In 1971, I worked for McKenzie Men's Wear, beginning in the old hotel and later where McGee's is located. From 1973-1975, I attended NAIT, then worked for various government jobs and for CBC before being forced to retire with MS in 1991.

For the past 10 years I've lived in Beaumont, Alberta, with my wife, LaRee and two children, Ronaele and Dean. I am content. Memories of Drayton Valley and the people are safely tucked in my mind to savor with a smile or a tear.

HOWARD WATSON PICKUP AND FAMILY

Written by Mrs. E. Pickup

Howard Pickup's father was a pharmacist. Clarence was born in Ontario, came west and married Martha June Holmes of Cardston, Alberta. She was born in the United States. They had three sons, Howard, Judson and Bertram. Howard was born in Cardston and went to school at Barons, Calgary. He took his Pharmacy at the University of Alberta, winning the Gold Medal.

He served in the Calgary Highlanders from 1939-1940, in the Reserve Army, and in 1942 went into the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. He went overseas with the 11th Canadian General Hospital Unit and was commissioned overseas and posted as Chief Pharmacist of No. 18 Canadian General Hospital, a 600 bed unit. Two years later he was Inspecting Officer for Army Medical Directorate No. 3 of Canadian Military Headquarters in London, until he returned home.

From 1944-1969 he took numerous postgraduate courses in pharmaceutical science. In June, 1968 he received the Bowl of Hygeia Award from A.H. Robbins Company of Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A., for the Pharmacist of the year, for 1967. The selection was made by various Pharmaceutical Associations, Provincial and State Pharmaceutical Associations of the North American Continent.

In 1942, he married Eleanor Ruth Davis, of Regina, Saskatchewan. They had two sons, Gordon and Mark, and a foster daughter, Connie.

From 1947-1954, he owned and operated the Nordegg Drug Store in Nordegg, Alberta. While in Nordegg, he served as a member of the School Board. When the coal mines closed, Howard relocated to the newly discovered oil field, Drayton Valley.

In October of 1954, he opened his first drug store, Valley Drug and in 1956, he opened a second drug store, Pembina Drug. Later he went into partnership with Alf Armstrong until he took seriously ill, which forced his retirement in May of 1968.

Howard was one of the founding nembers of the United Church in Drayton Valley. These members contributed both time and dollars to the formation of this church.

On July 1, 1967, Howard was awarded the Centennial Medal in recognition of his community service. He was an active member of the Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce. In Drayton Valley and Nordegg he was Justice of the Peace, served from 1949 to 1962 as Sunday School teacher, in choirs, and Clerk of Session and Trustee of the United Church. Mayor and Councillor for 12 years, holding the position of Mayor at the time of his death while skiing on the Drayton Valley ski hill in January, 1970. The H.W. Pickup Junior High School was named in his memory.

My (Eleanor's) mother, Jane Grant was born in Cornwall, my father Wilfred Davis was born in Owen Sound. Both cities are in Ontario.

I was born on my grandfather's Davis' farm just

Official opening of the Hospital by Mayor Howard Pickup

north of the City of Regina. I took my schooling at Albert School, the same school that my father had attended. From Public School I went to Scott Collegiate and then to Commercial College. I worked for Robert Simpson, now known as Sears, for six years.

I met Howard and was married in wartime. As a new bride I moved to Red Deer, Alberta, for a year, then I moved to Calgary while Howard was overseas. I worked in an office of a grocery outlet and later at Hudson Bay, until Howard arrived back home.

On July 1, 1947, I moved to Nordegg to be with Howard and worked in the drug store. I taught Sunday School and enjoyed having a teenage girls' choir. I played for the United Church and began my career in teaching music, which has continued to the present day.

On February 14, 1955, I drove from Nordegg to Drayton Valley, with Gordon 4½ years old and Mark 20 months old. I had to cross over the Saskatchewan River on the ice. At the time there were several open areas which gave me great concern, and a lot of fear.

I came to Drayton Valley to choose the colors for the interior of our new home, with intentions of returning to Nordegg in a few days. However, the weather turned bitterly cold and I was forced to stay as the report from Nordegg was that the house had frozen pipes. The only place available in Drayton Valley was at the Drayton Valley Cabins, located north of the Drayton Valley Hotel. It consisted of two rooms without running water.

April 5th of that year was a BIG day for the Pickup's. We moved into our house at 4904-52 Avenue. This is where Gordon, Mark and Connie grew up. They attended the Drayton Valley grade school, now known as the Eldorado, and then Frank Maddock High School, which is now the H.W. Pickup Junior High School.

I worked along with Howard in the drug store when needed. I taught music and made a home for 13 welfare children. After the death of Howard, I worked in the Medical Centre, St. Anthony School and T.M. Electric. I was on the board for the Yellowhead Regional Library for a number of year and served for 12 years on the board for Shangri-la Lodge. I was also a Board member for the Drayton Valley Association for Community Living from 1977-1991 and I served as organist for both the United Church and the Anglican Church.

I am a member of the United Church Women's Auxiliary, the Hospital Auxiliary and the Historical Society, and I have been with the Red Cross since 1942. In 1991 I was awarded the coveted Lion's MELVIN JONES FELLOW.

PAUL PISKUNOWICZ

The memoirs of an old homesteader

I was born in 1913 in Eastern Poland and I remember the end of World War I like a dream. My mother, my sister and I found ourselves stranded somewhere in the heart of Russia while father was in the army. At the end of the war Poland regained independence. We returned home. Father, along with our neighbours, had to make a long journey with a team of horses in search of food.

Since the front ran through our area, there was hunger and destruction. Times were tough for our parents, but for us children engaged in various games, life was happy. Then came the exciting school days and meeting many boys and girls, since in each family at the beginning of the 20th century there were as many children as peas in a pod.

My school grades were only satisfactory. I had, however, a deep passion for drawing. That's probably why my marks couldn't match my sister's. She always got honorary marks throughout her public schooling and teacher's college.

In grade 4, I painted pictures of the Polish kings and princes. They were painted with water colors and hung on the wall in our classroom. I also painted decks of playing cards and sold them to my buddies for a few pennies. That's why my math and grammar suffered.

Paul and Mary Piskunowicz

My school days came to an abrupt end one day when father decided to emigrate to Canada with the whole family, even though he was already 54 years old and had 7 little children. At the end of March, 1930, we started a long journey which lasted a month and a half. Finally we settled on a farm. There were hundreds of emigrating families on that journey, and we mixed in with the wave too.

We were leaving our native land like the cranes flying overseas for the winter. But, at least they had the instict to return home in the spring. We didn't have that option because all of the money from the sale of our farm in the old country had been used for this trip.

We were going to an unknown land, to the other hemisphere, not knowing anybody there. I often wondered about it and was amazed at how much courage our parents had, deciding on such a fundamental change, especially when they had a prosperous farm. Perhaps my father anticipated the outbreak of another war and was afraid that once again everything would be destroyed. I remember the departure from our yard on a wagon loaded with trunks and luggage, the farewells to relatives, neighbours and schoolfriends, and the tears, hugs, kisses and promisses to write to everybody.

Going past the school, I jumped off the wagon to say goodbye to my teachers and have one last look at my desk and the blackboard that I occasionally knelt in front of for some school pranks. My pictures of the Polish kings still hung on the walls. I had the impression they were all looking at me and commanding me: "Don't forget Poland!" A great sadness overwhelmed me, my throat tightened and I couldn't finish my farewells. I ran out into the street. Catching up with the already fast rolling wagon, I felt tears running down my cheeks. Passing the cemetery, where the big white birches and other trees stood majestically watching over the graves of our forefathers, I could hear in the March wind the murmur of the huge spruce tree: "Why are you leaving? What are you leaving for?"

Sitting among our neatly packed baggage on the back of the wagon, I wondered if I'd ever come back to my native home, however, at the same time my youthful curiosity was encouraging me to see the new world and its adventures. We went to the city of Brzesc to undergo medical examinations. Later on we received our passports in Warsaw, but the strictest controls took place in the city of Wejherowo where Canadian doctors examined us paying close attention to our hands, making sure they were strong.

We boarded a small ship in the port city Gdynia, and after a couple of days' trip on the stormy Baltic Sea, we landed in Antwerp, Belgium. Waiting for our transatlantic liner we had a chance to visit that beautiful port city. We stayed in a large hotel with excellent food. When the ship finally arrived to pick up our group of emigrants, we noticed it was the huge sea monster called "Pennland' (16332T) which belonged to "Red Star Lines". Right from the start of the journey every day brought new experiences, and now we were on the huge ship out on open sea and pretty soon the land would disappear from the horizon. On the ocean, people were getting seasick, and fewer came to the dinner table as days went on. When the ship started rocking everyone suffered, except for an older lady, who was always in motion and who occasionally helped herself to a sip of brandy from a bottle hidden beneath her large shawl.

One day someone exclaimed that the American shore was close because of the seagulls surrounding the ship, and very soon we noticed the shore indeed.

We landed in Halifax, in our new homeland on the anniversary of the Polish Constitution of the "3-May". From there we continued West by train. Spring was just beginning in the East, and Quebec still had some snow left here and there.

However, in Southern Ontario spring was already in full swing. There were green, beautiful highways, big cities, factories and activity. But we were not allowed to stay there, since we were supposed to go to Western Canada to populate the wooded regions. One day I saw a young fellow throwing a small suitcase out through the window. When the train stopped for a while at the next station, everybody was allowed to get some fresh air. The owner of the suitcase walked out and never returned. This way one could take a chance to remain in the East, as long as the person was single. The train kept rolling on this long and tiresome jour-

ney, mostly with overcrowded third class cars. There was no room to lie down, neither for small children nor for adults. One could only sit and stare out the window at those vast, empty spaces. The trip lasted two days, fortunately, nothing could be seen at night, but all day, to the left and right, all we could see, were rocks covered with meager spruce trees. From time to time a shack appeared close to the tracks. There was not a road in sight, no people, and no sign of life. Emigrants' faces showed terror, fright, depression, almost desperation. Women wept.

Even after half a century, I still can't forget the woman, who, with tears in her eyes, cursed Canada and her own husband lamenting: "God, O God, where is he taking me to?" After a couple of days on the train the picture outside began to change. There were fewer rocks, more bush and trees which meant better soil, and in time little farms started appearing, and soon we found ourselves in an entirely different world. It was the province of Manitoba, flat as a tabletop with handsome farm buildings. Our spirits were lifted and hope shone like a rainbow after a bad storm. Going further West we passed big farms scattered sparsely through the huge prairies, sometimes several miles apart. In the fields people were doing their spring chores, mostly with several horses, not one or two to a team like in the old country.

Here and there tractors were also seen in the fields. After having arrived in Edmonton, we stayed in an Emigration House for a few days to have a look around. But being in a strange country, not knowing the language nor having anybody to turn to, we were helpless. Various agents speaking immigrants' languages tried to clean out the newcomers' pockets, but high travel expenses had beat them to it.

The only way for immigrants to start a new life was to take a Government homestead in the forest. Each adult was able to purchase 160 acres for $10. Our immigrants grabbed the land, scattered throughout the forest. They undertook the heavy job of clearing the Canadian wilderness. Immigrants are tough, brave and are used to hard work in order to survive in difficult situations. There were no roads, only some Indian trails or moose and elk tracks. Everything was far away, schools, stores, post offices and churches, but "God" was close.

Whoever brought some money from the old country had an easier start, because he could buy a milk cow or a work horse to skid logs for the construction of the first "shack", instead of carrying them on his own back. He, who couldn't afford it had a much tougher start.

Our parents had some savings and instead of getting a homestead, father made a down payment on a farm with an old shack on it, and a piece of cleared land. It wasn't much, but it was a beginning. After having bought some necessary supplies in Edmonton, such as food for a few days, a stove and other things for every day use, we loaded everything with our baggage onto a truck that was supposed to take us to the farm somewhere in the wilderness, about 80 miles West of Edmonton, near the village of Tomahawk.

It was May 17th, and it was cloudy, unlike spring, and cold in the back of the truck box. It was getting dark when we unpacked all of our belongings and moved into the old shack, made in such a way with logs fitted tightly enough so that you could see cracks in the walls and corners. We started a big fire to warm ourselves up and fix a bite to eat.

At first glance, it didn't look too bad. The forest was already green, just like a few acres of oats growing a couple of inches out of the ground, as if to welcome us. Tired after travelling, we went to sleep where-ever we could. The black night fell and it got very still and quiet outside, but there were some noises coming from the walls covered from inside with several layers of paper. Between the logs there was enough room for lots of mice, and suddenly, as if on command, they all started to run around at once, and noisily scratching the paper.

In order to quiet them down we had to knock on the walls. As it turned out, there was something worse than mice in the shack, bedbugs, that today's generation doesn't even know about. The next morning we woke up, not believing our eyes. It was Sunday, May 18th. The shack was cold and the world outside was covered with six inches of fresh snow. We were all scared and surprised, but it was nothing unusual for that part of the world. In the afternoon the sun came up and the snow started to melt, only to show us how good our roof was. Water dripped everywhere in our shack. The snow disappeared fast and then sunny and warm days came. We started planting potatoes and cleaning up the rundown yard. A few days passed and then one day a man came riding by on horseback. With the help of my dictionary he explained that he wanted me to work for him clearing the land. My father could help after settling in the new place. Then in a couple of months, with the money the two of us would have made, we could have bought an old mare in the hope of raising our own horses in the future.

I jumped onto the horse behind the man, and off we went down a road that wasn't even there. We rode bareback through the forest and hills for a while until we got to the edge of a swamp with grass

as tall as a horse. We stopped there and the farmer said something in English, but realizing I didn't understand, he broke off a few branches and showed me how to keep away mosquitoes that swarmed in the grass.They were so bad that our black horse changed its color to grey, as if covered by a blanket. Some time ago in this spot, there used to be a lake called "Low Water Lake". There was still some water left in the middle of it, around which there was grass and marshland, where mosquitoes and water birds made their nests. The squeaking and quacking of all kinds of ducks, geese and other webbed creatures could be heard. Through all the noises and whispering grasses, it seemed "Mother Nature" was telling me something.

From there we continued on foot for a couple of kilometers. My boss led the horse by a rope, walking briskly, so it wouldn't step on his feet. The horse walked fast on the wavy surface of the swamp so as not to sink, and I followed it swishing away mosquitoes from the horse with some branches covered with leaves, and saving myself from them too. This way we got through the other side of the half-dried lake and continued through the forest. It seemed to me we rode for too long. Sitting on the back of the horse I often asked the question that I had already learned from my dictionary and now knew by heart "Mister, how far?" "Not far", he said and we rode on.

At that time I started paying particular attention to the type of trees, paths and small ponds we passed, so that I would know how to run back to my family if need be. I still remembered the stories from the old country about slave traders in America. As I found out later, the distance was only 8 miles, but to me it seemed like 28 miles.

We finally arrived at the road where my farmer's yard was. Happily, I got off the horse to relieve my sore bum, and with stiff legs I rushed behind the barn. I also drew myself a little map of our trip on a piece of paper, thinking it might come in handy in case I needed to escape. I still have that map as a souvenir.

I looked around the boss' yard. He had some sheep and cattle, a few horses, lots of poultry, ducks and chickens. He was not married and middle-aged. After a few days, to my amazement, my boss told me to call him George. He had another worker, Herb, who liked to talk a lot. Besides clearing the bush, Herb also cooked. He never washed his hands, he just soaked them when he washed the dishes.

I listened carefully to their conversations and noticed they were using many words that I couldn't find in my dictoinary. After a week of clearing land with the two bachelors, I went home on Sunday with the help of my little map. This time the trip didn't seem so long and terrible as before. On Sunday our closest neighbour came over for a visit. Mr. Joneson was an older man who spoke only English. I wanted to show off how much English I had learned in a week and I used all of the words that I heard from co-workers. Mr. Joneson laughed so hard, that it echoed throughout the forest and then said: "You are a bad, bad boy". In time I learned that I was swearing like the worst bum. I still get embarrassed.

I worked for George two months. He paid me one dollar a day. When a rainy spell came, I went home to help with work on the farm. The year 1930 marked the start of the Great Depression. The next year was worse, and the situation got even worse as the years went on. The hard times were here. When father bought the farm for $1,600, he paid ¼ down and the rest of it in yearly payments.

All of us started working around the farm, clearing the land, building a cow shed, fixing the leaking roof on the shack. We were hoping to build a new house because the old neighbours who had lived there several years already, assured us that the remaining debt could be paid off in a couple of years. However, in the meantime, the crisis got so bad that after a couple of years, there wasn't enough money to even pay the taxes with. After four years of hard work we had to abandon the farm and start from scratch on a new homestead. We built a big comfortable log house there, a large cow shed and a chicken coop. This way we had provided ourselves with a warm and cozy shelter.

During the hard times it was tough everywhere, but poor city people had it tougher than we did in the bush. At least we had a place to live in, with lots of firewood around, we had our own food from a yard full of potatoes and different vegetables, and a couple of acres of wheat for bread. Wildlife and game were plenty, so we didn't lack fresh meat. We had big game in the winter time, and geese and ducks in the summer.

I remember one time when I, and a neighbour, Hrycko, who was several years older than I, went duck hunting in the swamp described earlier. We crawled on all fours towards the water where there were a lot of ducks. I had aimed the shotgun, when Hrycko whispered, "prop it up, Paul." "How and where am I supposed to prop it up? In the grass?", I asked. "Put the barrel on my back", he said. He then crouched down and bent over almost touching the soft swamp with his nose. I took his advice, rested the barrel on his shoulder, aimed it at a flock of ducks and shot. A few ducks turned down, and so did my friend as he fell splashing into the swamp. The shot fired too close to his ear and nearly deaf-

ened him. I got very frightened, but after a while he stood up shaking his head and said: "My ears are ringing like hell." Thousands of birds flew up and noisily circled above our heads, probably with bad wishes for us murderers. Our trip ended without any further complication. In a few weeks Hrycko's ears stopped ringing and he didn't loose his hearing.

The duck swamp, or the half-dried lake, was a great help to the first settlers in the area because it supplied the homesteaders with enough grass for hay for the horses and cattle, and was also a pasture in the early spring, and late in the fall when the mosquitoes were frozen.

In the wintertime when everything was frozen, we used to hunt for fur-bearing animals, coyotes, weasels and squirrels. We did catch them in traps all winter. With the money made from selling furs we bought ammunition, tobacco, etc. Thanks to Canadian freedom, we all had shotguns and rifles and ammunition was bought as easily as everyday food stuffs.

Some pioneers were experts at making their own moonshine which was needed for various celebrations (weddings and funerals), since life had to go on regardless of how tough times were. People who bought too much sugar were suspected of making "fire water".

Life flowed on, young people adapted more quickly to the changes, while the older people, like our father, worked in the hope that maybe some day, there would be better times for their families. Our father, who worked so hard for eleven years clearing the forest with his axe, didn't get to see those well deserved better days, he died in 1941.

During the hard times and living far from the railway, it was 30 miles to walk to Gainford, to catch the freight and go to the prairies looking for harvest work. Living far from the railway, but close to the big North Saskatchewan River, we decided to build a raft and in the real pioneer way, float downstream to Edmonton, and then hitchhike to the harvest region. We nailed together six dry pine logs and tied them together with wire, and thus we built something that looked like a raft.

There were four of us, myself, my younger brother Adolf, our cousin Mark, and a friend of ours, Dick Knechtel. Early in the morning we loaded our backpacks onto the "ship" and, after loosening the mooring lines, took off into the unknown. We were petrified when our raft got caught in a whirlpool as if it were a feather, and in a second ended up in the middle of the turbulent foaming river, spinning around like a top. Horrified, we tried to hold onto the logs of our "ark" with our hands, watching how quickly the riverbanks disappeared. We looked for a shallow place to jump off, since two of the four of us couln't swim at all. In a short time we got up enough courage to move around and stretch our legs. In an hour the "heroes" stood on their feet with a plank with one flat end, somewhat like a shovel, that we had used to steer the raft.

We took turns at the helm, avoiding dangerous spots in the river. From the frightful and panicky experience our river sailing changed into a pleasant and cheerful two day trip. Not having a bit of shade on the raft, we splashed ourselves with water The weather was beautiful, and the August sun beat down on us without mercy.

Finally we landed successfully in Edmonton, and we knew of this one place where for 20 cents one could get a whole meal. But for us hungry young boys who had only been snacking for two days, two orders weren't even enough. We wanted more, and that caused the Chinese owner to come out of the kitchen. Wearing an apron and a white hat, and carrying a big kitchen knife, he came over to take a look at the hungry creatures and to find out where they came from. After supper we went to the southside railway station to catch the cargo train, which left at one o'clock in the morning.

There was already a large crowd of people waiting for the free ride. At every railway station on the crop-producing prairies, unemployed people were looking for jobs which were very scarce. Big prairie farmers with several hundred acres of crops needed workers and now they had lots to choose from, because there were more workers at each railway station then sparrows on a roof.

When a farmer was ready to harvest, he would go to the station to pick out a few young strong workers. The skinny and old ones got left behind. During hard times thousands of "hobos" travelled on freight cars in search of harvest jobs but not all of them could earn enough money to buy the warm clothes badly needed for frosty winters. In a rich and vast Canada a wanderer's fate was miserable. Policemen chased the unemployed and homeless men out of the railway stations and did not allow them to rest there. This kind of nomadic life got to me. I didn't like farming, and not having any other choice, I went back to the old homestead and started putting up buildings for myself.

Later on I married a beautiful girl, the daughter of Polish immigrant, John and Carilin Koyko. They settled in the same area in 1929. They led the same kind of life we did and had a large family with seven girls and one boy. Mary and I spent our "honeymoon" on the homestead, clearing the land.

Even though the beginnings were very tough, we had a happy life together. We lived without

money, and sometimes a letter we wrote would lie around for a long time before we had saved up enough money for a stamp.

With the outbreak of World War II, life changed immediately for all the young unemployed, hungry hitchhikers and those pursued by the police. All of a sudden there was room for them in passenger trains, and food money and new, clean, army clothing.

Factories started production until there were no workers to operate them and money was found. After the war ended, times got better with each coming year. Big changes also happened in farming. Tractors replaced horses, and large machines (CAT Diesel Power) were used to clear the bush. We saw more progress in one year than we had had in our first fifteen years here.

We sold our homestead in 1946. It was far from the road beyond the little creek where there was no bridge. One had to wade through it to cross over. Sometimes, after heavy rains or spring thaws, the water level would be so high that wagons couldn't get through it. We had to cut down tall trees that grew close to the bank, so that they could fall onto the other side. Then, with a cat's skill we would walk across the tree trunks over the creek, which roared swiftly underneath into the Saskatchewan River.

Our little Stan was already old enough for school, so we had to move somewhere closer to the road and school. We bought a farm from my wife's parents on the other side of the creek. Even though it was located 1½ miles from the school, the danger of walking across the creek on a chopped down tree was no longer there.

Over the next few years we put up some new farm buildings, then we bought two quarters of land with a large forest from our neighbours, and started clearing the bush again, this time with a hired big Diesel Cat. We had to use our hands to pick up roots. This was a hard and heavy job for the whole family. Even though the work was hard and seemingly never ending, farm living was healthy and happy and every one was his or her own "boss". Although I was my own "boss" on our farm, I could not find extra time for myself to enjoy my hobby, which is art.

Only on some Sundays could I get back to my painting. In 1952, when I painted a self-portrait with water colors, I entered it in the Edmonton Exhibition. I received a first prize ribbon for it. During the following four years I exhibited my art work there and received a number of first prize ribbons. I stopped exhibiting because I really got frustrated. "Modern Art" in the form of abstract paintings was dominating the art scene and I didn't understand this form.

In 1954 I made a change. We had marvelous weather that fall. Indian summer weather followed day after day, allowing harvest and fall plowing early completion, giving me some "free" time.

Two of my neighbours, and I decided to look for a job in Drayton Valley. It was a 45 mile drive from our farm, but we formed a car pool, so that part wasn't so bad. At that time RAM-JAY Construction company out of Edmonton was just starting to build a hotel on 51 St. and 51 Ave. We got employment with this company. We mixed cement by hand for the hotel foundation, and then we helped the carpenters with the hotel building. The beautiful weather that year continued with us right up to Christmas. However, after that, we had lots of snow and extremely cold temperatures, which created great hardship both for humans and farm livestock.

There were more chores to be done at home now, as each year our farm operation expanded, so that it became impossible to continue working out to earn the "extra dollar".

Our family comprised of two boys and one girl. Our older boy, Stanley, completed his education for twelve years in the Tomahawk school, then took two years of Steel Designing and Drafting in Edmonton, then was employed there. Our second son, Lucas, received his public schooling in Tomahawk, then his high school in Seba Beach. Following his graduation, he attended the Agricultural College in Olds for three years. He then worked as an Agriculturist in Drayton Valley for some time. Our daughter, Linda, after graduation, attended Grant McEwan College in Edmonton; then was employed as a secretary in Calgary, in Alberta's booming oil industry.

My wife Mary and I were getting older, and found it difficult to cope with our mixed farming system. The workload was too much for us, so we decided to "down-size", a system many businesses are now "copying". We sold all our dairy cows, got rid of all the swine, and chose to specialize in purebred cattle. In the following twenty years we had very good results in successfully raising purebred "Polled Herefords".

Our son Lucas was now employed by Parkland County in Stony Plain. He was helping with the work in his spare time, as he was living with us at home, and he wanted to become a rancher, raising purebred stock. We had a hard decision to make whether to continue on the farm, and for how many more years.

In 1974, Maurice McCullagh and Bill Johanneson, two members of the Hospital Board of Drayton Valley, came to our farm to commission me to paint an oil painting in memory of D.G. McKenzie who had been chairman of their Board. Mr. McKenzie

had recently passed away at that time. In a short time I had an oil painting featuring a scenery with an oil well. A symbol of Drayton Valley and its environs. This painting I delivered to the Board members. Shortly after, we received an invitation to the unveiling ceremony of that painting. This memorable occasion for me was to be held in the Drayton Valley Legion Hall. After a gourmet meal, Mr. Johanneson introduced me to the assembly as the artist of the painting. The whole event is unforgettable for me. That oil painting hangs on the wall of the Drayton Valley Hospital now.

Late in the fall of 1976, Mary and I moved to Drayton Valley, where we had purchased our new home. Lucas took over the farm. Now I had all the free time I needed for my hobby of painting. So every day I painted, and shovelled snow from the sidewalk that winter.

In March of 1977, I had my "one-man" art show at the Stony Plain Multicultural Centre. That show gave me such a boost that now I devoted more diligently to my hobby for the rest of that winter. When spring came, Mary and I took our first holiday in all our farming years. We went on a prepaid tour to our old country Poland. For one week we travelled across the country, visiting many famous places. That was truly an enjoyable experience, as the bus was excellent, the guide great, and the hotels and meals first class.

Following the tour we visited our Polish relatives for a couple of weeks. We saw first-hand the hard life that the Polish people were suffering under the hard Communist Government. Upon our return home we gave thanks for living in our great country, Canada.

Now we were semi-retired, but too young to be without employment, so we decided to look for a job. It didn't take long. Mary was hired at Shangri-La Lodge to look after the Seniors and I was hired as a carpenter helper by Henry Unger. Henry had four carpenters and two helpers. The first house that we built was on 45 Ave. for Gunther Schmidt.

Next, we started a house on 55th Ave. for John McKenzie. A house that was to be the biggest and nicest one at that time (1977) in all of Drayton Valley, having as many as three fire places.

One morning, a young brick layer, Dale Lundquist of Brooks, Alberta, showed up on the job to prepare bricks, but he didn't have a helper. He asked Henry, our boss, for one of his helpers for a couple of days until he could get his own. Henry chose me as the helper. Dale took me outside to his cement mixer and showed me how to mix the mortar, then carry the stuff in pails inside to the fire place. I was also to supply him with bricks. This was a harder job then helping the carpenters, but I didn't mind hard work, so in half a day, I was "well trained".

The next morning I was the first one at work, and prepared everything for Dale to start laying bricks. By dinner time we had made good progress, at which time Henry and Dale went off together to a restaurant for dinner. When they returned, Henry told me to stay helping Dale, and I agreed. From then on, just the two of us were on the brick laying job.

Dale was very nice to work for and easy to get along with, so I tried my best, and everything progressed smoothly. At that time it seemed every house under construction had to have a fire place, so we had more work then we could handle. We built so many fire places that first year that I got "fire place-holicism", and began planning to build one in our own home. When we had purchased our home it was new but the basement wasn't completed, so there was my good chance to put my "fire place-holicism" to practice.

The result was a fine fire place and a finished basement where, in my spare time, I painted a mural on the wall next to the fire place.

In the following two years Dale and I built 52 fire places in and around Drayton Valley homes. Then we got the job to build one in the first Drayton Valley Hotel. The very same one that my two neighbours from the farm and I helped build 23 years previous, in 1954. The new owner wanted to do some inside remodelling because a bigger dining room was needed. Carpenter Adam Eckert and his helpers got the job, and they made a masterpiece of the remodelling, wood carvings on the walls, mirrors everywhere. After the carpenters left, we moved in to build the fireplace.

The hotel's owner lived in Edmonton, but he had Bob Dyck, a local manager, looking after our progress. He liked to admire Dale's fast work laying bricks. We were nearing completion when Dale said to Bob: "Start planning your official opening". "Oh, no, not yet", Bob replied. "When you guys are finished, I'll import an artist to paint a mural on the front dining room wall." Dale looked up from his work at Bob. "You take Paul to paint your mural". He retaliated, but Bob just laughed out loud. "I'm not kidding you Bob", Dale continued, "Paul can do that". And there I am standing like an old scarecrow, overalls all mired in mortar and mud, anything but a picture of an artist. "Go to Paul's place and see his art in his rumpus room", Dale urged Bob. "See for yourself". Bob looked at me in disbelief, but he took my address, and he came that evening, and the "rest is history", as the saying goes. I got a big kick out of

this little episode. After one look at my art display and the mural on the wall, Bob said: "Start my mural after you finish the fire place." I explained that I'd paint a couple of preliminary sketches of local scenery and he could choose his preference, but when I was to start the mural I could not have constant interference while I worked. The three doors leading to the dining room would have to be closed, with the exception of the kitchen door. Bob agreed, and we had a deal.

This is the summer of 1979 and I am facing a different challenge, a 13 foot blank wall. Can I accomplish what Dale promised Bob – "Take Paul, he'll paint a mural for you". With every stroke of the brush I started, I reminded myself to do a good job. After a couple of days, my painting took on life. I had a moose standing in a lake. An old Chinese cook noticed it from his kitchen door. He would come part way out, and clapping his hands, said: 'I like, velly, velly good!". The next day I painted in the foreground, two large Canada geese flying across the sky. For prespective I added a flock of small geese in the distance. When my Chinese friend saw that, he clapped his hands even louder. He was quite excited over "the baby geese".

In 10 days I completed that mural. Now the Hotel could have its Grand Opening. And what a classy Grand Opening is was, with gourmet food, town celebrities, out of town dignitaries. My wife and I had an invitation too. We met more new friends. I felt that I had left my "tracks" in art, painting that mural in 1979.

Then in the summer of 1980, Les Tucker hired me to cut grass on the Drayton Valley golf course. I saw so many people, young and old, enjoying golf so much. I decided to try golfing myself and that is how I got hooked on golf. That summer was the most pleasant one that I had ever had, cutting grass on the golf course, and in my spare time golfing with some old codgers, who'd get mad at any bad shot. I was over seventy years old, too, but I've learned to ENJOY the game even when my score was terribly bad. And when a good shot came, it gave me such a pleasant feeling. I believe there is actually no finer game or a greater thrill than a golf ball SMACKED LOUD.

The following fall the RCMP hired me as a part time guard, a job I held for the next 14 years My daily shift was 8 hours, sometimes served at night, thus giving me plenty of time for golfing, too. Besides that, my wife and I had joined the Seniors Club in Drayton Valley when we first moved here. We didn't participate much because we wanted to continue working for a few more years. But we kept up our membership fees so that if we had some free time, we'd join in their activities, playing cards, floor curling, or bowling, and that's how our time passed.

When the RCMP retired me in February of 1994, I was 81 years old. Was that old enough to be retired? With only two months of winter left I had spring, golfing and my hobby, art, to look forward to.

The Drayton Valley golf course has a scenic Hole 17, Par 3, with a big water hazard, a real golf ball collector, where I, too, drowned many a ball. So I decided to paint a picture of that beautiful "spot". As I painted it, I thought of how lucky I was in my old age to be able to play that game and enjoy it so much.

Once in a while, my wife Mary and I reminisce about our beginnings, how very tough it had been, then the hard times that followed, and how we managed to get through them. We both come from large families, but our own family consists of two sons and one daughter. Now we have 3 grandsons, 24 year old Brock Franklin, a young pilot, and two brothers, Daine l6, and Craig, 13, Piskunowicz. Both very bright High School students. The two of us, old Grandma and much older Grandpa are very proud of our achievement.

Now our lives are waning to dusk, like the late noon sun. Soon sunset will come. But at least for now we are enjoying better living conditions, thanks to our enterprising parents and all the other hardy pioneers who played such a vital role in building this country, the best in the world. OUR CANADA!

ART PLAYFORD

Art's ancestors were English with a European branch about which he knew little. He was one of seven children, the elder of two boys. Art was always known as an intellectual. In childhood he was gifted and different from the others, a mystery to his parents. The family lived on a Prairie based farm. Art always wanted a different milieu. He tried various careers, gained a carpenters ticket, worked in a pottery, studied theology, moved throughout the United States, without finding satisfaction until he started the Pembina News in Drayton Valley. He was then a man with work more suited to his wide-ranging capabilities.

Art was a people-person, never happier than when circulating among the many friends he made. He was obsessed with the importance of the Drayton Valley area and did all he could to promote it. Unknown to him at the time, the years there were the happiest of his life. His newspaper prospered with the town and district. He had writing published in many other papers, journals and also anthologies.

He wrote chapters of an autobiography which remained unfinished. He loved his writing and reporting life, always taking in his car a large portable Hermes typewriter bought at its European source on a tour about 1961. His spontaneity had a large dash of restlessness and he never produced the books he dreamed about although professional friends urged him on. He would have liked to complete this side of his ambition, but ran out of time.

Art moved from Drayton Valley because it seemed to him, along with marriage and a young family, time for change. Art said he had changed his life every seven years, with the exception at Drayton Valley. His decision to pioneer again and start a newspaper in Fort McMurray was not a success this time. He had not reckoned with the lack of community spirit among largely American workers at the nearby oil tar sands. They were there on contract and the company provided home comforts in the camp. They worked a year or two then returned home. These men received news from USA by mail, and did not support the local paper.

Sadly, Art became bankrupt. He had to leave the printing works and foundations laid for a family home – it was never built. With his family, Australian-born Irene Playford, daughter, Denese, and son, David, he settled in Edmonton. It was his idea that he stay on there but the family trio decided to visit Australia, where Irene's mother was seriously ill. He contracted meningitis and died in Edmonton General Hospital, January 7, 1975.

Irene and children stayed with the ailing, elderly mother in Australia. Denese qualified as a neuroscientist with a doctoral degree. David is a consultant physician and will soon also be a cardiologist. Irene is a freelance writer. Art served in the Drayton Valley Chamber of Commerce and had strong links with a local church as his family still does.

Arthur Playford was born at Tenterden, Kent. He was taken to Canada at the age of four years and grew up as a farm boy in Manitoba.

He started Drayton Valley's first newspaper, initially called Tribune, later Pembina News Advertiser, in the 1950's. He also conducted a printing business using what was then revolutionary: the photo offset method. He was the first to do this in Alberta.

Those who knew Art Playford stated he was an eccentric intellectual which was borne out in his writings. He had two dominant interests outside writing, publishing and community life – medicine, the paramedical, and politics. He liked to tell how his father, David Playford, always followed political events and was known to have strong views, regularly aired to local identities. Art often met local and city journalists, politicians and doctors for general and political discussion. He took more than ordinary interest in the conduct of local, provincial and federal government. People noting his speaking ability, urged him to enter politics. From a young age, his children were taken to some sessions at coffee shops and were encouraged to have strong opinions.

Art was at one time superintendent of a Drayton Valley Sunday School. He was a member of Rotary, and Lions as well as Chamber of Commerce. His farming background enriched his knowledge of agriculture in the area.

Before his final illness, Art was commencing a new publishing business and writing the story of the Drayton Valley area called Raw Lay the Land, also his own autobiography. These manuscripts were not recovered.

DALLAS AND LORRAINE POLEI

Submitted by Lorraine Polei

Dallas was born and raised in the Millet/Wetaskiwin area. I was born and raised in Edmonton. We both attended NAIT graduating from Industrial Production and Dietary Technology respectively. We were married April 20, 1974 and made our home in Whitecourt where we lived for 5 years. We were blessed with three wonderful girls – Amanda, Stacy and Cheryl. We lived in Slave Lake for 10½ years and spent 5 months in Edson before coming to Drayton Valley.

Dallas worked for Amoco Canada for 16 years in Whitecourt, Slave Lake and Edson. In October, 1989, he resigned from Amoco and hired on with POCO Petroleums to manage the Drayton Valley area. Dallas moved to Drayton Valley in October, 1989. The company was small when he started but has grown immensely since then.

The girls and myself moved to Drayton Valley January 29, 1990. It took us 17 years to relocate to Drayton Valley. We first came to the town for a visit in 1973, and thought this would be a nice community to raise a family. We bought a house in town but Dallas still had dreams of being on an acreage. Amanda and Stacy attended St. Anthony School until grade 9 when they went over to Frank Maddock High School and graduated. St. Anthony went through renovations and incorporated a high school curriculum so Cheryl stayed and had the experience of being on a trimester, quadmester, and semester system. She was in the second year of graduates from St. Anthony School. Amanda and Cheryl both played Ringette and Stacy was in jazz dance.

Amanda married Ian Cathrea of Drayton Valley and they make their home here. Stacy married Arron

St. Louis of Drayton Valley and they have a son, Nicholas, and live west of Drayton Valley on an acreage. Cheryl lives and works in Drayton Valley.

In 1996, we moved north of Drayton Valley where we have 20 acres, 3 horses, 2 dogs, 3 cats and a perfect spot to call home. We love living out of town and having the extra space, and yes, dreams can come true. Dallas enjoys golfing, curling, hobby farming, and horseback riding. Drayton Valley offers some beautiful countryside to explore. I have been involved with the start-up of Ringette in Drayton Valley in 1990 (being president for 3 years and past president for 1 year), sitting on the school councils, co-coordinating the hot lunch program at St. Anthony School for 7 years, doing various volunteer work, and bowling.

In the ever changing world of the oil and gas industry, POCO Petroleums was bought out by Burlington Resources from Houston, Texas in November, 1999. The name change occurred January, 2000, to Burling Resources Canada Energy Ltd. I guess nothing stays the same.

Many changes have taken place since moving here and many new friends have been made. We have been part of the growth of Drayton Valley and are happy to be a part of this community. All in all it is a good life!

L to R, Amanda, Ian, Cheryl, Dallas, Lorraine, Stacy, and Arron Polei holding Nicholas

JOHN & MARY POLOWAY

It all began during a wet and muddy year back in 1954; John Poloway started working with Pembina Pipeline in Drayton Valley. The Mannix company constructed Pembina Pipeline specifically as the gathering system for the Pembina oilfield. Before starting with Pembina, John worked for Texaco. Ken McMillan, a Texaco engineer, approached him and several others regarding opportunities on the new frontier. Ken McMillan, Spike Brown and John Poloway all went ahead with Pembina Pipeline to Drayton Valley – sight unseen.

The weather in 1954 had been particularly wet. Getting through the mud was a daily challenge. There were no paved roads and travelling was precarious to say the least. Four wheel drives were an absolute necessity, but getting stuck was still a common occurrence. Through all the trials and tribulations, the men forged on and reached their ordained destination. There they found more mud, but under all that mud was a black gold that transformed the area forever.

John officially started with Pembina on November 8, 1954 as a field mechanic. One week later, on November 15, John Poloway, Ken McMillan and Larry Gano opened the pipeline and shipped the first seven barrels of crude oil from Mobil Battery 7A. Among the dignitaries officiating the opening of the pipeline at the Hotel McDonald in Edmonton, were F.C. Mannix, Jim Scott (President of Pembina Pipeline) and Ernest C. Manning, Premier of Alberta. It was a memorable and exciting day for all those involved. Pembina has since pumped close to 2 billion barrels of crude oil at two receiving points in Edmonton.

At the beginning, some of the men stayed in trailers which were provided by Pembina Pipeline. To get a decent meal you usually went to the Violet Grove café. Sometimes you had to stand in line for two to three hours. The mud used to get so piled up that you couldn't even close the door. Finally, the Drayton Valley Hotel was built, as well as one of the first cafes, the White Bull.

John commuted between Drayton Valley and Edmonton on days off and weekends. John's wife, Mary, who was pregnant with their first child, stayed in Edmonton. Susan was born on November 27, 1954 at the Royal Alex Hospital. Incidentally, on that day, the Edmonton Eskimos won their first Grey Cup against the Montreal Alouettes. The play of the day, which most football fans will remember, was the Hunsinger fumble on Edmonton's 20 yard line (or close to). Eskimo Jackie Parker recovered the fumble and ran for a touchdown, seconds before the end of the game, winning by one point. The game was broadcast on radio throughout the hospital. Everyone, including Mary's doctor, was not going to miss a minute of the game, regardless of who was waiting in the delivery room. Fifteen minutes after the final play, Susan arrived safely. Not only was Susan born on a famous Grey Cup day, she also has the distinction of being the first Pembina Pipeline baby.

John moved his family to a new home in Drayton Valley on February 6, 1956. Since housing was sparse, Pembina Pipeline built homes for their employees. This home is where Mary and John still reside in retirement.

Mary and John prospered with their family. Dale was born on May 13, 1957, in Edmonton at the Royal Alex, as there was no hospital in D.V. Glenn was born on January 18, 1959 at the University Hospital. During her stay at the University, Mary met two other Pembina Pipeline wives also having babies – Edna Henderson and Edna Snider. Allan was born on March 16, 1960 in Drayton Valley. Diane was born on December 18, 1961. Janice was born on March 16, 1963 (her brother Allan's birthday). Last but not least, Ken was born on March 31, 1965. Mary was commenting to her hospital roommate on having a family of seven children. Her roommate, Mrs. Nona Combs, replied that she just had her seventeenth child the day before. Mary's admiration for Nona has never wavered to this day.

As can be seen by the above, the Poloways did their best to increase the population of Drayton Valley. All the children went to school in D.V. and the principal of The Frank Maddock High School, the late Richie Woods, saw them all graduate.

"The more the merrier" seemed to be the Poloway household motto. In February, 1976, Tom Riesterer came to Drayton Valley from Guatemala where his family was living. His school was demolished by a severe earthquake that hit Guatemala.. Tom attended high school in Drayton Valley. He stayed with the Poloways until July, when his family moved back to their home in D.V. In 1977, Pablo Martin del Campo, from Guadalajara, Mexico, stayed with the Poloways from November to June while he attended junior high school. Pablo's parents wanted him to experience living in another country and to learn the English language. Between children's friends coming over and cousins visiting, the household was a bustle of activity for many years.

During their years in D.V., both John and Mary were active in the community. John was instrumental in the formation of the boy's football league along with the Town Recreation Manager, Mike Gormley. The "Little Canadian Football League," had three teams: the Eskimos, the Stampeders and the Blue Bombers. They were equipped with uniforms of the same color as the professional teams. Needless to say, Dale, Glenn and Allan Poloway were all on the Eskimo team. John and Charlie Davies were the head referees for the local minor hockey league. John sat on the Recreation Board for a number of years and as director of the Drayton Valley Athletic Association.

Mary joined Oil Wives Club of Drayton Valley on March 20, 1958. There were 105 ladies who became charter members that night in the Drayton Valley Hotel. Bess Balen and Mary Poloway are the only two active charter members in the Club. They celebrated their 40th year with the Oil Wives in March, 1998. In the early days, Mary was involved with helping out at the elementary and junior high school. She would occasionally be a "substitute teacher." Another one of the many memories that Mary has is a grade two class coming to her house for one whole day to learn how to make bread. There were 20 in the class with their teacher, Peggy Tyler. It certainly was a full house that day!!

Beside being busy raising her family, Mary did volunteer work such as canvassing for various charity organizations. She was a member of the recreation board for six years, and was on the executive of the band association. She held classes in aquasizes at the local pool and aerobics classes. Beginning in 1977, she worked as the Coordinator for the Federal/Provincial/Municipal government in their Neighborhood Improvement Program and the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program. She worked out of the Town office for sixteen years. One of her favorite volunteer activities is with the Drayton Valley Presents Concert Society. In October 1997, on behalf of Drayton Valley Presents, Mary was recognized by the Minister of Community Development, Shirley McClellan, for 20 years of service to the arts touring in Alberta.

John continued his career for the next 40 years with Pembina Pipeline. After starting as a field mechanic, he soon became foreman. He looked after all the pumping equipment in the field and as the company expanded, so did his responsibilities. In 1962, the Buck Creek Pumping Station became a remote station and was controlled and operated from Edmonton. John looked after the operation of the pump station with John Carroll, who was the Trunkline Supervisor. John Carroll moved to Edmonton, and between the two of them they operated the trunkline system. After John Carroll retired, John became the Trunkline Supervisor. John retired from Pembina Pipeline on December 31, 1994.

John and Mary are enjoying their retirement in Drayton Valley. They like to travel, read, play cards with friends, and also spend time with their children and grandchildren. Susan and her husband Shahram live in Yellowknife with their two children, Roya and Shayda. Their business and children keep them very busy. Dale resides in Calgary, managing his electronics company. Glenn, his wife Valerie and their two children, Joseph and Laurel live in Cochrane. Glenn commutes from his job in Oman every other month. Allan, a gas plant operator, spends his free time between Drayton Valley and Edmonton. Diane has moved back to Drayton Valley after a 17 year sabbatical. Her husband

Randy works in the oil industry and they have two children, John and Aleah. Janice, a wholistic college facilitator works and resides in Calgary. Ken and his wife Tanya both work and reside in Calgary; Ken works in Human Resources and Tanya as an Accountants Receivable Senior Clerk.

John and Mary feel that Drayton Valley is a wonderful town to raise a family. They believe that they could not find a better place to spend their retirement years, with the occasional escape in winter to warmer climates.

ANDY AND CHESTER PRESTON

Submitted by Walter Turkiak

In the summer of 1935, Andy and his brother, Chester Preston, homesteaded on the north half of section 12-48-8-5.They had to pay a few dollars for the improvements, as there were a few acres of land cleared by Tom Reson. They hired local people to clear their land. They cleared about 25 acres on NE 12-48-8-5 and 15 acres on NW 12-48-8-5 in the summer of 1936. They cleared enough land to get the title to the land. A person had to have at least 15 acres in cultivation before he could get a title. I think that Irvin Mastre broke the land with his tractor and breaking plow in 1937. My dad, Peter Turtiak, and his brother in law, built the Prestons a log house out of hewed logs, in the winter of 1937-38. They plastered it with clay, mixed with straw, and the following spring the Preston's fenced their ½ section of land. They had only one team of horses, a wagon and a sleigh. They hired Bill Schmidt and Evertt Brandt to seed their crop and harvest it. I think Irvin Mastre did their threshing for them.

Both of the Prestons were in their sixties. Chester's wife lived in Edmonton, since she didn't like living on the homestead. In 1938, Chester moved back to Edmonton. He passed away shortly after that. Andy Preston was a widower. He stayed on the homestead for another year but sold the farm in the fall of 1939, and moved back to Edmonton.

PROPP BROTHERS

Propp Bros. (Art & Willie) were contracting for Swanson Lumber – Edmonton office. Their planing mill was located in Granada.

Propp's cook house

Propp's cook house and row of bunk houses

In the spring of 1944, Propp Bros moved to the north side of the Pembina River (about 3 miles SE of the Blowout Gas Well). Here they cleared a site by hand to set up a small portable saw mill. This mill was powered by a TD-9 Cat, to saw timber and lumber for a stationary saw mill, bunk houses, cookhouse, barn, water tower, pump house, office and root house.

Two bunk houses and two office buildings

Propp's camp site

They had three crews. One crew worked on building the cook house, bunk houses and office. Some local natives who were living just east of the site were hired. The second crew set up a stationary saw mill, water tower and also the pump house down on the river.

The water pipeline was built from pump house to tower. A ditch was dug by hand to the mill. The water line was insulated with sawdust from a small temporary saw mill. Workers carried the sawdust in

Building a water pipeline

socks that were placed in ditches for installation. The third crew was building the barn and getting roads ready for winter use.

Building the road into the camp

Art and some of his key men went to Saskatchewan to look at Steam Boilers. Two Rumly Steam Boilers were purchased and moved to Granada. Some equipment was hired from Swanson Lumber to build a winter road into the camp. The steam boilers were brought into camp and used to power the stationary saw mill.

Sleighs loaded with lumber

It was after Art had the winter road built into camp that Clarks moved in and set their mill on Zerta Creek, 3 miles west of Propps. Clark's mill was also steam powered.

Propp went with Short logging, skidding by horses to a landing, loaded onto sleighs by a "Jammer," and pulled to mill by a TD9.

They started the lumber haul to Granada after Christmas. The lumber was loaded onto sleighs and trucks and hauled to Granada. One of the biggest loads of 13 thousand feet was pulled by a KB8 International single axle truck.

Hauling lumber to Granada

In the summer of 1945, the logging was the same, the logs were loaded onto trailers and pulled to the saw mill. The lumber was dry piled in a yard west of camp and hauled by horse team and wagon. In the winter of 1945-46, lumber was reloaded onto sleights and hauled to Granada.

Loads of lumber

In the summer of '46, they decided not to operate the stationary saw mill, due to cost. They pulled a small sawmill to the timber. By this time, Propps

owned their equipment, a TD14 and TD18 which was used to clear a mill site. The cats were then used to power the mill. They skidded the logs to the mill by horses. When it got too far to skid, the mill was moved to the next site. The lumber was dry-piled. In winter, lumber was reloaded onto a sleigh and pulled to a planing mill.

In 1946, Mountain View School was built to accommodate the families living in the camp. Grades one through nine were taught.

In the winter of 1946-47, logging switched from short logs to long logs. Cats skidded the trees to the landing, log trucks picked up one end of the trees and drug them into the mill. Felling of timber was by men with Swede saws or cross cut saws. When the trees arrived at the saw mill, they were rolled onto a conveyor, moved up to a cut-off saw, and then rolled over to the carriage.

Logs on saw carriage, girls with kant hook

In winter, ice was cut and taken from the river and stacked in the root house, the storage place for vegetables, etc.

The Propp Bros. dissolved the business and it was carried on by Art Propp.

For summer operation, Art hauled his supplies in from Edmonton by truck through Drayton Valley, Violet Grove and to the Pembina Post Office. The Post Office was the end of the road and operated by Deby's. At this point, supplies were loaded onto sloops and pulled into camp by TD9 Cat. On route, they had to cross the Pembina River (a few miles west of the post office). A ferry was built and was adequate until a cat was driven off and into the river. At this time, Art purchased a Dodge power wagon (which was after the war) to help bring in supplies by truck.

They used the road SW of the Post Office to a settlement passing Joestings, Johansons and the Glen Ranch. Art was able to ford the river with his truck at Johansons. From the river crossing to camp, one could see herds of elk and wild horses.

In the spring of '47 the barn caught fire and burned along with one horse.

Art finished sawing on the Pembina River in '47-48 and moved to the Brazeau Tower area. There again he set camp and the sawmill (¼ mile East of the Tower). The mill was smaller and was powered by TD18. This was just a winter operation. Lumber was hauled across the Pembina River on the ice. The lumber was still hauled by KD8's on sleighs to Granada. In 1950, an International tandem truck was purchased to haul lumber, and to pull a sleigh.

The Forestry hired Art Propp's equipment to build a road from Joestings to the Tower. In the spring, some lumber was hauled through Drayton Valley when ice was not safe to cross at the Pembina River. Art's sawyer was Fred Urchyshyn and one of his skidding contractors was Dan Bills, both of Drayton Valley. In the spring of 1951, Swanson Lumber asked Art to take over a lumbering operation NW of Valleyview. An arrangement was made with Swanson Lumber for Fred Urchyshyn and Dan Bills to take over the Brazeau operation and finish the timber berth and the Art Propp crew moved north in 1952.

JOE AND VERNA RADOWITS

Written by Verna Radowits

In the years previous to 1955, I had no idea where the town of Drayton Valley or the little hamlet of Buck Creek was. My only knowledge of these places was that somewhere way out west was an oil booming town with limited access to communication. I was employed with AGT Long Distance and any calls trying to get through to there were a complete nightmare. Every morning as we sat at our stations the delay notices would be posted as early as 6:00 am. We'd already had a 4 to 8 hour delay. The callers would leave their numbers to be contacted and we would try to get the calls through as the line permitted. There were two lines for Drayton Valley but one had to remain open for emergency use only.

Word of the boom spread and in 1955 my fiance decided to leave the farm at Thorsby and seek work in the oil patch. He was hired by Pembina Pipe Line and moved into bachelor housing in Buck Creek. My sister and brother-in-law (Shirley-Alex) offered to drive me to Joe's place of work, and get a view of where I'd be living next year. The trip as I remember took hours. We bounced in and out of ruts, choked on dust, and saw miles and miles of bush. Finally arriving at Buck Creek we spotted a field of trailers and skid shacks; housing was certainly at a shortage. We found the bunk quarters (the largest building) but were informed by one of the employees that Joe had been called out as part of the maintenance crew and he had no idea when they would return. We decided to take the drive to the town of

Drayton Valley, but found the traffic at the ferry lined up for a half to one hour. At this point I remember feeling disappointed and certainly harbouring some very mixed feelings about moving away from family and friends. Although it was only 40 miles, it may as well have been 400. It seemed so desolate and far away. Driving back, the entire country side was lit up by derricks in every direction, a beautiful sight but still not convincing.

We were married in July, 1956. I decided to quit my job in Edmonton and move to Buck Creek, except we soon found out there was nothing available to move into, nothing to rent and nothing to buy. Joe reassured me that people where constantly moving and we were sure to find something soon. I moved in with my sister and brother-in-law who were married a month before us, and lived on the Radowits farm at Thorsby. In October, a two-room house (size of a farm granary) became available. For $45 a month we were glad to move, and so here began my life in Buck Creek. The first 2-3 weeks I defined the word lonely to its fullest. The men worked long hours and although the foremen and supervisors were very considerate in trying to keep us informed, their predictions could be out by hours. The units had no communication equipment. So often co-workers would be sent out to check on one another. Usually the cause of the delay was due to the trucks being bogged down in the gumbo and mud.

Berry picking time, 1962 Verna Radowits with Rick and nieces and nephew

It was during this time that I met my neighbours, The Samis', Haukedahls' and in a trailer behind, the Zeiglers. Strong friendships developed, new brides, new mothers became totally dependent on one another; advice in cooking, childrearing, and swapping babysitting, or sharing any hobbies or skills was our lifeline.

Helen Thompson (holding baby), Ethel Streit, Ida Cross, Betty Zugher, Lena Neilson, Rita Barbeau, Betty Mae Pearson, Verna Radowits (front).

A few months later a larger house became available for only $5 more, so without even seeing the inside we approached the owners, gave them the $50 month rent and anxiously waited for them to move Friday so we could move Saturday. We had only started our packing and unpacking when Reg Samis spotted mouse dirt and was certain that they probably lived atop the sagging ceiling. All moving stopped as I refused to share my home with the mice so we spent the night at Reg and Marlene's. Luckily, a little house down the street had a for sale sign. A quick trip to Calmar to find the owner, and an agreement to rent enabled us to move again. Once again this one rented for $45 but well worth it as it had three rooms with 2 oil heaters.

In November of 1957, the Company added to their housing and built a 4-plex. We were luckily one of the four families that moved into the new building. Our first baby was on the way so the convenience of indoor plumbing, running water and two bedrooms was certainly a joyous and welcome move. The men could still use the facilities at the bunk house but it was not unusual for the ladies to enjoy a cup of tea and a bath or do their laundry while visiting a friend who had running hot and cold water.

In 1963, Pembina allocated to Drayton Valley. Houses from the pumpstation and Buck Creek were moved, and our family which now had grown to four moved once more. Our house on 45 Street became home and a gathering place for the boys' friends.

Joe retired in November, 1991 but unfortunately was too ill at this point to enjoy the celebration of his 35 years with the company. He passed away in December, after a long hard fight with cancer. I sold the house, moved to 43 Avenue, retired from my job of 19 years at the post office and am currently enjoying golfing, travelling and grandchildren.

Rick (our eldest) and wife Samantha live on a farm near Buck Creek (once owned by the Regenwetters). They have two boys, Austin and Royden. Rick has completed 20 years with Amoco and is Senior Operator at the West Pembina Plant. Darrell lives in Drayton Valley, has two children, Ciara and Dustin, is and has been with Pembina Resources for 15 years and works at the Alsike Depot.

In the 40 years we have seen many changes. Somehow the inconveniences and the mud are all but forgotten, but the times of meeting and making new friends, having the opportunity to live in a great community are the things that are fondly remembered. The friendships are still here today through many moves and the changes in our lives and friends remain as dear today as they were then. There's certainly no other place I'd rather live. Drayton Valley is home.

JOHN & DORIS REID

Written by Doris Reid

We were both born in Castor, Alberta, and were raised on farms. John was the oldest of five siblings and I was the third of eight children. We both received most of our schooling in rural schools and finished our schooling in the town of Castor. We were married in the City of Edmonton in 1954 and lived there for just over a year.

In July of 1955, John was hired by Pembina Pipe Line and we began our life living in an oil town. When John arrived in July of 1955 he had to build us a place to live and so he built us a "mansion" in the Western Trailer Court which is now the parking lot in the Derrick Mall. In October of 1955 John and I and our 7 month old daughter Debbie moved into that "mansion" which turned out to be a 10x20' skidhouse. We were very comfortable but did have to walk to the wash house for bathroom facilities, showers and to do our laundry. We also lived right behind the local hotel, which was one of the very few buildings that was completed on main street. It was very interesting to watch the downtown being built and learning how to contend with real mud. Rubber boots seemed to be the footware of the day.

We moved to Lodgepole into a company house in the fall of 1956. This truly was a "mansion", now we even had a bathroom in our house with running water. While we lived in Lodgepole we added two more daughters to our family. Pam was born in 1957 and Annellen in 1959. Lodgepole was also a very new town and while we lived there John was on the Recreation Board and helped to build the curling rink and the ball diamond.

In 1960, Pembina Pipe Line moved some of its houses to Drayton Valley and ours was located on 43 Street. Drayton Valley had changed and was developing into a fair sized town with streets that were no longer muddy. Schools and churches were being built and homes seemed to have been built everywhere. It was and is a great place to live. In 1962 we added Cheryl, our fourth daughter to our family.

We started to get involved with the community. John worked with Mike Gormley on the Recreation Board for several years and I started working with the Figure Skating Club when it was still an outdoor skating rink. That's when Debbie and Pam started skating. In 1967, when the Centennial Arena was built, all four of our girls were skating. The older girls were often on the ice by 6 AM, which made it a long day for them. I was on the executive of the club for many years and became the President for several years as well. Gwen Simpson was also very involved and this is where we got to know each other so well. We spent much time putting together the Carnival each year. What a lot of work and fun that was – there are many memories of all the young people who skated at one time or another – of all the themes that had to be chosen – all the costumes that had to be sewn – all the music that had to be listened to – all the choreography that was planned and of course all the practising that went on. The Ice Shows were a truly rewarding experience. Debbie spent many years on the ice and eventually turned pro and taught skating in Drayton Valley for several years. John also sharpened skates for a number of years at the arena. We were Figure Skating Judges and travelled with our girls to skating competitions all over Alberta. John also spent a fair amount of time on the golf course and soon was on the Board of Directors and served as President for one term.

Gwen Simpson and I opened the Fabric Korner in 1973 in an old creamery building located on the corner of 50th and 50th where Fast Gas is now. We started by selling fabrics by the pound and eventually turned to yardage. We had many sewing courses and continued to teach those when we moved to our new location which was the old Treasury Branch Building which we purchased and is located on main street. We had lots of room now so we added wool and some crafts to our business. When the Simpsons were transferred to Kuala Lumpur in 1977, I decided I didn't want to be in business by myself, so we sold in 1978, and I retired from the work force.

In 1979, our youngest daughter Cheryl was killed in a tragic car accident. This really changed our lives and made us realize how precious life is. It

was shortly after that I became involved with the Christian Women's Club. I continued to work with them for the next 16 years and have just now retired as the area rep for Drayton Valley.

In 1964, John and Ron Howatt bought a quarter section of land in the Easyford area and set out clearing, breaking and planting crops. This truly was a challenge and sure kept them busy. They both worked full time for Pembina Pipe Line, so this was evening and weekend work. In 1973, John bought Ron's share and continued to put up hay and pasture summer cattle.

We decided that we would really like to live on this farm that we had purchased (NW31-49-8W5), so in 1979 we had a house built and moved in that fall. So far we are really enjoying our time out here. Shortly after we moved to the country, John became involved with the Evergreen Gas Co-op and was a director for many years.

We raised purebred Simmental cattle for a while but we sold them so that we could slow down. John continued to work for Pembina until 1992 when he retired and is now home full time. We continue to do some haying and we pasture cattle as well. We like to do work projects in the winter so we travel lots to nice warm countries which gets us away from the cold.

Our girls are all married and have given us eleven wonderful grandchildren. Debbie married Loren Regnier and have David, Tim, Marcie and Kathryn. Pam married Royce Baird and have James, Jenelle, Spencer and Emilee. Annellen married Peter Blazuk and they have three boys, Jordan, Nicholas and Jeremy.

ERVEN AND DOROTHY RENDFLESH

The oil industry of Dayton Valley beckoned with promise of better times to many rural Albertans. We moved to the booming town of Drayton Valley in September 1955, locating in a skidshack development in Deby's trailer park. We had married in July 1954 and were living on the farm in Freedom, Alberta a district to the east of the town of Barrhead. Deby's trailer park had the convenience of the central wash house with washers and dryers which made caring for our month old daughter, Darlene, an easier task.

Erven's first employment was with Pembina Pipe Line and he remained with the same company as a gauger and meter technician over the next 19 years. During these years, 2 other children were added to the family. Dale was born in 1957 and Sharon in 1962. All three children took elementary and high school in Drayton Valley. They enjoyed the sports offered, especially hockey, figure skating and later the swimming pool. The children were all active in the Brownie, Guide and Scout groups.

Dorothy Rendflesh

Ervin Rendflesh, 1965, Meter Proving for Pembina Pipe Line

Erven belonged to the Lion's service club and later to the Rotary Club. Being charter members of Emmaus Lutheran Church he was also instrumental in the plans when it was built in 1959. He served in the church as chairman or board member for many years.

As the town grew there seemed a need for a dry cleaning service so we opened a bulk dry cleaning plant in the early 1970's located on main street. It later became the Cleaners, a regular dry cleaners which is still located on main street today.

In 1974, Erven purchased the Mens Wear store of the late Don McKenzie and pursued the next 18

L-R Ervin, Darlene, Dale, Dorothy and Sharon Rendflesh

years as an entrepreneur. He sold the business to Tom McGee in 1985. Dorothy also had joined the business ranks in the Mar Nels Ladies Wear store and enjoyed the fashion business for some 20 years, retiring in 1993. From 1978 to 1988 we also operated the Fashion Image store in the Derrick Mall.

Ervin and Dorothy Rendflesh

Our eldest daughter, Darlene Graham Hale, lives in Calgary and has three children, John 17, Shauna 15, and James 11. She does independent computer accounting for small business firms.

Dale resides in Drayton Valley. He owned and managed the Rendales Mens Wear store until it's closure. He is presently working with Hi West as a driller. Dale and Margaret (nee Banks) have two children, Justin11, and Jena 5. Margaret has been employed with Pembina Resources for the past 19 years.

Sharon and her husband Terry Hook, live in Cochrane, Alberta. They have two children, Brittney 8 and Ashley 6. Terry in employed with Trans Canada Pipeline in the Calgary office.

The past 43 years bring back many memories of a growing oil town. From the days of the skidshack and the clay dirt streets, to the beautiful town of Drayton Valley, as we know it today. We were a town of young families growing up together, and working together over all those years to make a better town for our families, for our future. We made great and binding ties in those early years, ties we still have the pleasure of seeing today.

We can look back and appreciate how working together the town has accomplished success in the oil industry as well was in all other areas, and has expanded to accommodate the growing population.

We now have retired and have moved on to Edmonton. We will always have fond memories of the town that was home to us and our children for 42 years. The town that grew from an average age of 17, many years ago, to a mature and adult community celebrating its 40th anniversary in 1997.

EUGENE AND DOROTHY RENDFLESH

Eugene Rendflesh and his wife Dorothy (nee Bucholtz) moved to Drayton Valley from Onoway, Alberta in the fall of 1955. Gene and Dorothy were both born in Bruderheim but did not meet until both families relocated to the Barrhead area. It was first there that they met and were wed in 1948. They

Joyce Rendflesh and friends at play in Flint Rig yard

began their married life together in Onoway where Gene began his career as a welder. Dorothy remained at home caring for their two children. Word of the oil boom in the Drayton area traveled fast and Gene and Dorothy recognized that Drayton could offer them a comfortable and exciting future.

Gene traveled to Drayton and found employment with Flint Rig (also known as Flint Engineering). However, accommodations were virtually nonexistent, so Gene, with the help of his father, constructed a mobile home (more commonly known as a trailer) and moved onto Flint's yard (as did many other employees' of Flint). The land was not serviced for living accommodations. Mud was everywhere. Grass. what grass?

Caterpillar sunk in muskeg

Life there seemed unimaginable compared to today's standards. There was no running water for the residents; families had to share a common wash house to shower, and wash clothes. It was common to see young children, covered in mud, placed in the laundry tub-clothes, boots and all.

Wood chipper and tree cutter, designed and built by Gene Rendflesh

After five years with Flint, Gene had a dream to start his own business in this active and aggressive oil industry. Starting your own business was not an easy task. It required working long hours. But over time, Gene met Stan Metelski at Flint who had similar goals. The two discussed a business venture and a year later formed Anchor Construction Pipeline Ltd. Early in April, 1961, the doors of Anchor were opened for business. Their core business was to install small diameter pipe for local oil companies.

Gene had a creative talent for inventing his own tools. He always found a way to make a better "mouse trap". Gene was known for the design of a mobile pipe bender, pipe wrappers, brush cutters, and most significant of all, the self propelled "Chipper", a transformed D8 Cat that could push over and mulch 12" diameter trees, leaving behind only wood chips which could be left in the soil. Though not a primary cause for such equipment, this was the beginning of environmentally friendly land reclamation.

In 1974, Gene and Dorothy decided to buy Anchor outright from Stan. By this time, pipeline activity had matured around Drayton and forced the company to seek projects further away from "home". Gene and Dorothy preferred to remain in Drayton and as a result expanded the business to pursue general oilfield maintenance contracts locally. This allowed Gene and his employees to work closer to home.

Gene was well known by many for his unpredictable humor and pranks. On March 3, 1975, Gene was killed in a single vehicle accident while travelling to Calgary on a business trip. Dorothy, with the assistance of Charle Miner as manager, continued to operate the company so as to complete any outstanding projects. Dorothy decided to close the company after attempting to sell it in whole. Assets were liquidated through numerous auctions and private sales.

Anchor was located along Industrial Road where many of the original buildings still remain. It is now the current home for Sunshine Ford.

Dorothy and Gene were active in their church as well as in the community. Since there was no Lutheran church in Drayton when they first arrived, they met at the local Scout hall with other practicing Lutherans. In a matter of months, there were enough members to construct their own facility of which Gene and Dorothy were charter members. Gene was also active with the local Rotary Club. Dorothy was involved in various church organizations as well as the Drayton Valley Figure Skating Club, the Drayton Valley Hospital Auxiliary and the Christian Women's Club.

Following Gene's death, Dorothy worked at Rend's Men's Wear until she moved to Edmonton. Gene and Dorothy raised three children while in Drayton; Dennis (born 1950), Joyce (1953) and Terry (1963).

Dennis moved to Edmonton in 1966 to complete his high school at Concordia College and continue with University. Dennis is now a chartered accountant and resides in Edmonton with his wife Pat (nee Crydermann, Westlock), one son Brent (born 1975) and one daughter Trisha (born 1978).

Joyce was known for her involvement in figure skating climaxed by her crowning as carnival queen. Like her older brother, she completed her high school at Concordia College. Joyce is currently employed as a medical secretary and resides in Edmonton with her husband Les Snell (also of Drayton), and her three children Bradley (1980), Jaclyn (1981) and Corey (1986)

Terry was known for his love for skiing. He could be found at the top of the local ski hill in winter as a member of the Canadian Ski Patrol or at the end of a towrope behind the family boat. After completing his high school education in Drayton, Dorothy and Terry left for Edmonton in 1981 where Terry continued his studies at the University of Alberta. Terry currently lives in Calgary and is employed as a Professional Engineer with a major energy service company

L to R, Gene, Dennis, Dorothy, Joyce (front), Terry Rendflesh

In the spring of 1991, Dorothy married Bill Ropchan of Edmonton. They currently reside in west Edmonton.

DICK & LEE RIESTER

Dick came to the Drayton Valley area in the early part of the 1950's with Dowell of Canada. The ferry was still on the river and an ice bridge was used in the winter. He also did his time on the highway north of town in the mud and everywhere else in the mud.

Dick married Lee (Leona Anderson of Edmonton, formerly of Breton) on April 4th, 1959. We lived in a three room skid shack, no bathroom or laundry area. This was provided for us in a central wash house in the middle of the camp. It served about eleven families, a total of about 47 people. The yard was shared by about 24 children, and one large St. Bernard dog named Rummy, who thought my new sheets made a great swing: I found them shredded on the line one morning.

Dick Riesterer in his first home

Haliburton's camp was next to ours. They had a very large propane tank that faced our camp. The valve blew on the tank and set fire to Arkenstall's shack and blew the porch off the Angerman's shack. Ken Astle was the only man in camp at the time and has to be commended for keeping most all of the women, except for me, calm. I ran to save my furniture in case the whole camp went up in flames. We had just paid $375.00 for our three room grouping. I ran in and grabbed the huge couch first. I must have lifted it and pulled it part way through the door where it stuck, end of rescue.

Thom and Boxer with Fritz

Standing L to R ñ Dick Riesterer, Grant, Brian, Thom holding Lauren, Janet, Kristy, Con and Harvey, Seated – Shari, Lee, Kathy, Bailey, Austin, Jaycie McKenzie and Jessie

Since the shacks were heated with an oil burner that sat beside the only door we had we made sure it never overheated. The windows had heavy screens on them. Our first child, Thomas, was born April 10/60, when we lived in this shack. One really cold night his blankets froze to the wall. We were happy our new house was being built.

May 31, 1961, we moved into our new house. Twenty days later Kathy was born, three and a half years later, Connie, arrived and sixteen months later Shari arrived.

We lived in and enjoyed Drayton Valley for the next 3½ years. On Sept. 19, 1969, we moved to Bogota, Colombia, South America, where we lived for five years. Then on to Quito, Equador, for one year and then to Guatemala City, Guatemala, C.A. for about eight months. Here we experienced a 7.3 - 39 second earthquake on February 3, 1976, which destroyed schools and towns. We sent Thomas home, February 29, to live with the Poloway family to continue his high school. The rest of the family came home the first of July 1976. We moved into our house in September.

Dick continued to work in Colombia until 1991, travelling home every two months. He now spends his time driving a hot shot truck for Grant and Shari's company, Ariant Holdings, and just as much time as he can on his 1100 BMW bike.

The children completed their schooling in Drayton Valley. Thomas went on to NAIT. After working around Edmonton with Core Lab and some time on an off-shore rig, Thomas married Janet Diduch of Edmonton. They have three children: Mckenzie 5, Lauren 3, and Austin 2, and one expected in August of '98. They live in Drayton Valley in their new home in Northview Gardens. Thomas works for Baker Petrolite.

Kathy worked for various car dealerships in both Edmonton and Drayton Valley. She then purchased her own vending business. Kathy married Brian Day of Drayton Valley. They now live in Muskat, Oman in the Middle East. They have a little girl named Jaycie Lee, 3 years old. Kathy is very active in slow pitch and bowling.

Connie completed her schooling through adult education and went on to Mount Royal College to receive her diploma in Occupational Hygiene and a certificate in Environmental Technology/Surface Water. Now she is working for Alpine Environmental. Connie has one daughter, Kristy Andrew, 15. Kristy plans to leave

Canada at the end of the '98 school term to live with her father in Denver, Colorado. Connie and friend Harvey Miner have their own home with a large yard, two dogs, and a parrot named Paquito. Harvey works for Barry's Sheet Metal.

Shari completed her education in Drayton Valley and went on to do office work for various construction firms. Shari married Grant MacPherson from P.E.I. who was, and still is, working for Brandette Well Servicing in Drayton. Shari and Grant have two children, Jesse 6 and Bailey 5. They live on a beautiful acreage 1½ miles out of Drayton. Shari has her own office in her home, for Ariant Holdings, and works part-time for Flint Canada, Inc.

As for me, Lee, I have had a wonderful full life with my family, friends, travel and more travel and I have a job I love. I have been in real estate for the past 20 years in the Drayton Valley area. Drayton is very busy, very clean, very friendly. I'm always proud to show new people our exciting town.

TOM RESON

Submitted by Walter Turiak

Tom Reson was a returned American soldier from WWI. He homesteaded on the north half of section 12-48-8-5 in the Violet Grove area, about 1930. There was a small cabin there, which was built by someone who had left the homestead earlier. He cleared a few acres of land and broke it with a team and walking plow. Tom was a good neighbour and he always supplied his neighbours with deer meat in the summer. He was the only one who had a rifle in our area at that time. He always carried a sawed off shot gun everywhere he went. I think he left in the spring of 1934 and went back to the States.

DENNIS AND LINDA RISKE

Submitted by Linda Riske

Dennis and I arrived in Drayton Valley in June of 1969, from Edmonton. Dennis came to start a branch office of Murdoch Production Equipment with which he was employed in Edmonton. It was only supposed to be for two years, but ended up lasting 25 very fulfilling years.

Dennis Riske

Linda Riske

We rented a house on 47 Street (across from H.W. Pickup Jr. High) for 1 year, as it was very hard to find anything to rent at that time. Dennis became involved with the Drayton Valley Rebels hockey team. We met many wonderful friends this way. A year later, in 1970, Shauna Lynn was born. We moved to a house on 47 Street (across from the Lutheran Church) and in 1973, Janelle Ann was born.

I was working part-time with Goliad Ltd., but I quit to stay at home with the two children. In 1972 Dennis went to work for Anchor Construction with Eugene Rendflesh. He loved his job there. But tragedy struck in March, 1975, when Eugene was killed in a car accident. Dennis then decided to start his own company, from our house in September of 1975, and called it Den-Co Oilfield Services Ltd. In November of that year, our son Scott was born, completing our family. In 1975, Dennis played with and coached the D.V. Merchants fast ball team which competed in the Evergreen Fast-ball League. They won the league championship that year.

The business grew to include oilfield maintenance, sandblasting and painting, production equipment rentals, and vaccuum truck service. As the business grew so did our children. They all graduated from Frank Maddock High School, and still have many happy memories and friendships of Drayton Valley. I was quite involved with the Drayton Valley Figure Skating Club and Dennis was involved with the Curling Club. We also sponsored the D.V.. Oilers, the senior baseball team for two years.

In 1981, we started building our home on an acreage (1 mile west and 1 mile south from the lights) of D.V. We raised Arabian horses to show. We have wonderful memories from the acreage. We lived there until 1992, when we moved back to town. Scott was involved in the D.V. Minor Hockey program and the Swimming Program.

One incident I remember vividly, was in January, 1970. I was pregnant at the time with our first child. There were only 3 restaurants, and it was our anniversary. We went to the "Old Hotel" for an anniversary dinner. I took off my shoes under the table and after the meal, Dennis had to carry me out in –40 degree weather, as I couldn't get my shoes back on. Dennis has wonderful memories of curling in the bonspiels in Drayton and surrounding area and of hunting around the area with friends.

One other memory was in 1981, when we moved to our house on the acreage, it really snowed hard and long that year. We didn't have any plows and tractors yet, and our driveway was very long. One afternoon, I put 2 cars in the ditch within 1 hour. Dennis then decided we needed a tractor.

Other memories include watching D.V. grow from a transient community of 3,000 in 1969 to a community of 6,000 in 1994, where people put down roots, retire and call it home. Memories of camping at the Brazeau, going to Brightwood Youth Ranch for sleigh rides in the winter, are wonderful times we all shared with our friends.

L to R, Shauna, Scott and Janelle Riske

In 1992, Shauna married Dean Kattler. They now reside in Castlegar, B.C. Janelle is living in Calgary and is an insurance broker. She is getting married in July, 1998, to Rod Valcourt, and will be living in Calgary. Scott is living in Calgary and is currently studying Computer Engineering at Devry Institute.

In 1994, we purchased a business in B.C. and moved there. In 1997, we moved back to Alberta, to Cochrane, where we built a house and where we now reside. We made wonderful and lasting friendships which we will treasure all our lives.

ED AND MIRIAM ROBERTS

Written by Miriam Roberts

Ed was born in Coaldale, Alberta and did most of his schooling there, until his parents moved to Spruce View, Alberta. He went to work in Shilo, Manitoba, for one year while his sister lived there. He completed his high school education in Innisfail, Alberta.

After farming in Spruce View and working on the oilrigs in Northern Alberta, he came to Drayton Valley to look for work. He started working for Flint Engineering and Construction, on December 1st, 1967. He worked there until November, 1975.

Ed met Miriam Jones, who had emigrated to Canada from Whales, on August 11th, 1967. Miriam came to work as a Registered Nurse and to travel. She worked at the Victoria Hospital in London, Ontario for a year, then travelled across the States to Calgary, Alberta. She worked at the Foothills Hospital until April 1st, 1970, when she started working at the Drayton Valley Hospital. Ed and Miriam were married soon after. Miriam worked at the Drayton Valley Hospital until her retirement in March of 1997.

They lived in a trailer at the E & B Trailer Court in Drayton Valley at first, and moved it from town to the NW ¼ of 25-49-8-W5 Meridian in October, 1971. Ed had been clearing the land his parents lived on. He continued clearing and developing the land. An agreement was made to transfer the Homestead Sales, including the SE ¼ of 25-49-8-W5, in February of 1973. In the fall of 1975, Ed and Miriam went to the Land Titles Office to enquire how much land they had to clear and cultivate until in seed bed condition. They found out it was 80 acres on each quarter.

While Ed was working for Flint he had to work away from Drayton Valley quite a lot, which did not allow him to get as much clearing done as he hoped to, and the springs and summers of the early '70's were very wet. So that Ed could get more time to work the land, he changed jobs in November, 1975, and started working for Texaco Canada Inc.

In the spring of 1976, Ed proceeded to get the required 80 acres of clearing and rotorvating doe on each quarter. In the meantime, the regulations had been changed to 40 acres for each quarter section of land. Ed and Miriam purchased a modular home in the spring of 1976, and had it moved onto a basement on the NW ¼ of 25-49-8-W5. That spring they sold the SE quarter and concentrated working on their home quarter. 110 acres were eventually cleared and cultivated. The family raised Simmental cross Hereford cattle. A highlight of our farming years was having our first calf and naming him Uno, but we were saddened when he died soon after, of

Upper Row, L to R, Kenneth and Sean, Lower Row, Miriam and Ed Roberts

strangulation in an unfortunate accident. His head got stuck under the corral fence. It was too late to rescue him when we found him. Fortunately we had better luck after that.

Ed and Miriam have 2 sons, Sean and Kenneth. They both started their schooling at the Eldorado School and graduated from Frank Maddock High School in Drayton Valley. Sean played hockey and was involved in the scouting movement. Kenneth also was involved in scouting and achieved his goal of receiving the Chief Scout's award. He was also involved in Ju Jitsu and wrestling while in high school. While both Sean and Kenneth were involved in Scouts, a highlight of their involvement was attending the Canadian Scouting Jamboree in Guelph, Ontario, in July, 1985.

The farm was a good place to raise our sons. They developed good work habits and skills and it prepared them for the work force in later years. As a family we cross country skied and had an annual bonfire of one of the brush piles. We also enjoyed camping and travelling.

Sean, Ed and Kenneth Roberts gathering hay that was not baled because it was too wet

We attended All Saints Anglican Church. Miriam became a Life Member of the Anglican Church Women in 1992. Ed was an assistant cub leader and assistant scout leader. Miriam has been involved with the Life Support Society of Drayton Valley and District since its inception in 1984.

Ed and Miriam continue the family tradition of raising a garden. They enjoy the peace and quiet of country living. The land is now rented out to our neighbour.

Sean left Drayton Valley to attend the University of Alberta in September of 1988 and graduated with a B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering, in June, 1994. He returned to work in Drayton Valley as an engineer in training at Byram's Oil Industry Labs. He has worked as a temporary manager at the Northern Oil Separators in Zama, Alberta. In November, 1997, he earned his Professional Engineer status form APEGGA.

Sean is engaged to be married to Jocelyn Yrysty, from Regina, Saskatchewan, whom he met while being in the armed forces as a field engineer in Chilliwack, B.C., during his summer breaks from U of A. They plan to get married on August 1st, 1998, at the new Anglican Church in Drayton Valley.

Kenneth left Drayton Valley in September, 1991, to attend U of A and graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in June, 1995. He was fortunate to get a job at Collins Barrow, Chartered Accountants, Drayton Valley, in June, 1995. He hopes to complete his course and qualify as a chartered accountant in September of 1998.

Ken married Shannon MacKinnon of Drayton Valley, on July 5th, 1997. They have two daughters Samantha and Dakota.

Ed continues to work in the oilfield as a battery operator, for Imperial Oil Resources after they purchased Texaco Canada Inc. in 1990.

ROBERT JOHN, SUSAN AND CHRISTMAS ROBERTS

Written by Miriam Roberts

Bob and Chris were born in Wales and emigrated to Canada in the early 1920's. Susan was born in The Ukraine, she emigrated to Canada with her parents and sisters to escape the Bolshevik revolution in 1923.

Bob, Susan and Chris had farmed in irrigation country on a rented farm near Coaldale, Alberta, until 1955 when dreams of owning their own farm brought them to Spruce View, Alberta. While farming for 11 years in Spruce View they had the misfortune of having hail damage to their crops in 7 out of the 11 years they were there. They had wanted to pass on the family tradition of farming to some of their five sons. Their only daughter Gladys and son-in-law Andy lived in Haney, B.C. Their son Elwin married Marilyn, who was from Dickson, Alberta. They stayed in that area.

The family had heard that there were homesteads opening up in the Drayton Valley area in 1963. Bill and his wife Della and family were the first of the family to move to the Drayton Valley area. Ed had tried to farm the home farm in Spruce View, but due to being hailed out, he had to abandon the idea of farming at that time. While Ed was working on the oilrigs in Northern Alberta to recover some of his financial losses, Bob, his father applied for a Homestead sale. He was fortunate to get 2¼ sections of land, the S.E. ¼ of 25-49-8-W5 and N.W. ¼ of 25-49-8-W5.

Chris left Canada in the fall of 1966 to go back

to Wales to retire, but the dampness in Wales and after living in Canada for 45 years he felt homesick and returned to Canada in 1969.

Bob and Susan retired from the farm in Spruce View and moved with Gerald to Berrymoor, while they were clearing a spot to live on the N.W. ¼. Meanwhile their youngest son, Jim, moved to Ottawa to work for the government. While Bob and Susan lived in Berrymoor they bought two older houses and moved them onto the N.W. ¼ and remodelled them. They moved onto the Homestead in May, 1970. Bob and Chris were avid gardeners; they planted and raised a good garden every year. Chris later returned to Wales for another 3 years. When he came back on October 6, 1974, it was for good.

Bob and Susan were members of the senior citizen club of Drayton Valley. Susan became a member of the Calvary Baptist Church around 1973 and enjoyed worship and fellowship there. Bob, Susan and Chris visited Wales in May, 1976. That was Bob's only visit since he emigrated to Canada in 1921. Bob passed away on September 6, 1977. Susan and Chris continued to live in the same place. After Bob died, Susan learned to drive and made many trips down to Southern Alberta. Chris lived in a nursing home in Innisfail for the last 2-3 years of his life, until he passed away on June 28, 1985. Susan stayed in her own home and enjoyed gardening, feeding and watching the birds, and crocheting in winter. She also enjoyed visiting and entertaining friends and members of the church. Susan passed away on October 22, 1989.

WILLIAM AND RUBINA ROBINSON

Written by Irene Robinson

William was born in Blackburn, England, on May 15, 1905 to William and Emma (Nichols) Robinson who immigrated to Canada in 1906, homesteaded in Nanton, Alberta and later in Chedderville. As a young man, William rode in rodeos and took his own homestead NW 7-37-7-5 in Chedderville.

Ruby was born in Linlithgowshire, Scotland on March 17, 1908, to George and Catherine (Harvey) Cunningham and emmigrated to Canada on the Translevenia ship landing in Halifax, April 6, 1927, and settled in Ardrossan, Alberta. Ruby was a qualified for teaching but to upgrade took some schooling in Camrose. She started to teach at Ardrossan, then in Chedderville boarding with William and Emma Robinson.

William and Ruby married on September 5, 1931. They had two children, William George and Rosalie. They homesteaded SE 24-49-9-5 in 1934, and moved there living in a small log cabin on the west side of the Pembina River. William trapped and worked in the lumber camps. Three years later he purchased hand picked drop siding for $7.00 per MFBM (1000 feet board measure) for new frame buildings on the east side of the river. To obtain a title, some land had to be cleared, broken, cropped and fenced.

One day they purchased supplies and sufficient barbed wire for the fence. This was quite a good load for the wagon and muskeg had yet to be crossed. They asked a neighbour homesteader if they could leave the wire at his place to lighten the load and pick it up on a later date. When they came back to pick up the wire the neighbour had made his own fence using the wire. He said the homestead inspection was due in a week or two after the inspection he would roll up the wire and bring it over which he did. They had real good neighbours and helped each other out whenever needed.

They grew beautiful, bountiful flower and vegetable gardens. Wild game and berries were abundant. The fields were on the west side of the river and when grain stooks were dry enough for threshing they were piled in neat round stacks. Oscar would bring over their thresher and stationary engine over in the winter, crossing on the ice and thresh the piles.

A big commotion erupted while moving a small granary to the east side of the river with a team. William was driving while standing in the doorway. Mid stream the granary began to float, then tip over and over and over tangling the harness and the horses.

They sold this place to Walter Chapman without the house and bought Jim Gilelley's place SE 19-49-8-5. They sawed the house in half with a hand saw and loaded it one half at a time, onto two sets of sleighs and moved it to the new location with a six horse team adding on ten feet to the house in the middle when it was reset.

William tried his hand at growing different crops and one year grew a small plot of flax. Threshing the flax was something else as the sheaves clung together. On the head of the flax are feelers like hops or vines. The binder (a machine which cuts and ties the sheaves) would drop 6-8 sheaves in a pile which were stooked (standing the sheaves on the end leaning against each other, head up to dry.) As the heads dried the feelers would curl up becoming all entwined. This made it very difficult to get apart so the field pitcher (the one who helps load the hay rack) and driver, one on either side would pitch the stook into the rack all in one motion. At the threshing machine the sheaves had to

be fed in one at a time behind each other. This is where the fun began.

Their plans were to save enough to purchase some orchard land in B.C, so Ruby went back to teach teaching at Wolf Creek. In 1944, an extremely wet year, William and son William George were in a logging camp south of Wolf Creek hacking up some trees into logs in the bush with a cross cut saw when a tree fell down between them, breaking William's leg. William George and a fellow in camp loaded him on a stone boat and started for the hospital. They came to a large meadow, which was now a lake. They built a raft and poled themselves across. Another camp was near. With a team and wagon it took two days to get to the hospital in Edson.

In 1946, Ruby homesteaded NW 10-49-8-5 so the children would be closer to the Clovertrail School. They skidded the house there with a cat. William's compensation cheque of $15.35 and $6.00 family allowance wasn't enough to live on and develop the homestead. Drilling the well cost $285.00, so once again Ruby went back to teaching at Fadsby, Entwistle and Whitby. Because she did not put in six months residence on the homestead in 1947, the penalty was $25.00. They sold the other quarter of land to Albert Kerchner in 1950 for $200.00 and a gas washing machine.

Ruby died of cancer on June 14, 1952. The house burnt down in the fall. William was tangled up in a long halter rope and the other leg was broken. It refused to heal and was removed below the knee. In 1958, he sold the land to his son William George and Irene, keeping a ten acre subdivision. He bought a small cat and did oil field work. He married Helen McKillop in 1962. This marriage ended in divorce. Then he sold out in 1966, and travelled about Alberta and B.C. Finally he settled in Abbotsford, B.C. and operated a fast food stand. Later, he managed the restaurant at the Husky Service station at Blue Rive, B.C. ,which his daughter Rosalie and Malcolm had leased. In December 20, 1973, he underwent open heart surgery. They are both in the Drayton Valley Cemetery. He had four grandchildren, Dorothy and Roger Robinson and Carrie and Randal McGregor.

WILLIAM GEORGE (BILL) AND IRENE ROBINSON

Written By Irene Robinson

Bill was born July 13 1932 at Cheddeville, Alberta (see Wm. And Ruby Robinson). While at Gadsby, Bill and his friend Benny Derr loved to hunt coyotes, gophers and crows. They got five cents for a pair of crow feet. Bill gave all his crow feet to Benny, which helped him to win a .22 caliber rifle, the prize for the most crows feet turned in. Bill already had his own .22 rifle. When in Entwistle he spent a lot of time playing horseshoes with Johnny Bills.

Leslie Herndon plowing in July 1932 with Kate, Bill, Pansy and Lady

He worked in logging and lumber camps and became a sawyer. Logging was done with cross cut saws and axe and the tree had to measure fourteen inches or more in diameter. Skidding was done with horses. Logging, skidding and sawyers were all paid by the production. He was hired by Reading and Bates Drilling Rig #7 in 1953 and started on the second hole in the Pembina Oil field but did not follow the rig when it left this field.

Ruby and William Robinson and son William, with George on the homestead on the west side of the Pembina River

Irene (Herndon) was born June 8, 1934, near Tofield, Alberta. When our family came to Drayton Valley we cleared land by hand. We all helped to cut bush with axe and pile it for burning. The roots of the trees were grubbed then chopped with the axe. I would shinny up the tree with a long rope tied around my waist. When I was up about 15 to 18 feet,

I'd drape the rope over a limb and dad would tie a logging chain to one end of the rope and pull the chain around the tree being sure to place the hook so that it would not come undone. After I came down, a team was hooked onto the chain and the tree was tipped over and pulled out. The bigger trees were cut into saw logs for lumber and the smaller ones for fire wood.

The Drayton Valley grain club was formed in 1949 of which I was a member. Our club chose to grow Larain Oats, I was judged as having the best standing oat crop plot in the province that year along with my twin sister Ivy. Our prize was a gold wrist watch each and an engraved silver tray. I was also chosen efficiency winner for our club. In an acknowledgment the Department of Agriculture gave me a trip to club week held at Vermillion school of Agriculture.

My sister and I played for many dances in the Drayton Valley, Violet Grove and Dunnington areas. I still enjoy playing periodically for the seniors.

Bill and I married in September 1954 and we live at Drayton Valley. I worked for the Federal Government in the Postal Service. Bill hired on with Mobil Oil doing surveying, on the crew truck, wire lining, and battery operating. We went into oilfield maintenance with a small cat, leveling and cleaning up oil leases and seeding them to grass. In 1958 the pay rate for cat, tuck and operator was $3.50 per hour. In later years he also did mowing of the leases to control weeds and brush.

We did the farming while Bill's dad was laid up and bought his place NW10-49-8-5 in 1958 and homesteaded the SW10-49-8-5. We raised sheep running a flock of 150 for a few years along with some pigs, chickens and a small herd of beef cattle. We had our own sawmill and did logging and sawing in the winters.

Dorothy, Roger, Jeanette, William, Irene Robinson, Thelma Herndon, Brandon, Jody.

In September 1995, our family was one of many honored by the Agriculture Services Board and the M.D. of Brazeau as having a history of agriculture involvement of fifty years and over within the M.D. of Brazeau.

We have two children, Dorothy and Roger. Dorothy has made a career of driving truck in the oil field and raises angora rabbits. Roger had his own brush cutting unit and cut brush on oil leases in ditches for different counties and under power lines for power companies in Alberta and B.C. He recently started mechanizing.

Roger married Jeanette Brown and they have our two grandchildren, Jody Lynn and Brandon. They all live on the back forty.

JOHN ROMANCHUK

John Romanchuk was born in 1896, in the Ukraine occupied by Russia. He served in the Russian War. He married Anna and then immigrated to Canada in 1929, with four children, Stanley, Nora, Thora and Olga.

They settled in Fallis where Stanely started his schooling. John worked for a neighbor farmer, clearing land, stooking and threshing.

After three years at Fallis, they moved to the Rocky Rapids district to homestead in 1932. The move was made by wagon and horses. They brought one cow and calf. A pair of oxen was purchased to help clear land and build the family home. Times were very hard and living conditions were rough. Three more children were born into the family – Fred, Henry and Elizabeth.

John continued to work for neighboring farmers, and also started working for local sawmills. One sawmill was owned by Roy Plotts and was located on NE¼-36-49-8 which is where Stanley settled and raised his family, and currently resides.

John worked hard to raise his family and continued to farm to make his living. The children received their schooling in Rocky Rapids and Laurel. Anna Romanchuk passed away in 1955. John Romanchuk lived in the Rocky Rapids area until his passing in 1964.

All his children had grown up and moved away with their own families except Henry, who remained living at home. He married Dylis Starling in 1956, and they purchased the family farm in 1957. This is where Henry and Dylis raised their 5 children – Dorothy, Donald, Douglas, Daniel and Dale. Henry passed away in 1979. Dylis still resides at the family farm, and son Daniel has taken over the farming operation with his wife Janice and two sons Derek and Darren.

REG AND LIL ROSS

Written by Lil Ross

Drayton Valley was the first permanent home we had. Reg was in oilfield work when I met him and married him five months later. I met him while I was teaching school in Whitecourt. He was a driller on a seismograph truck. We married in Sangudo, lived the first couple of months of our marriage in Mayerthorpe in a one roomed 16 foot trailer, and then the crew was ready to move on again. At Nanton, in Southern Alberta, he left seismograph work and we moved to Drayton Valley with our little trailer.

Lil Ross – 16' home

We had one of the first trailers in Deby's trailer court. They were just setting it up. We couldn't wait for them to set up a trailer court so our trailer spot was nothing but a hole torn into the bush. There were no washroom facilities as yet and our little trailer had no bathroom, but Henry Deby had built an outdoor one. There was no electricity in this trailer court so we borrowed a gas lamp and the old fashioned flat irons. But luckily, it was summer – the summer of 1954. An oil rig running nearby kept me awake all night at first.

Reg got a job on the rigs as a roughneck. He would drive or catch a ride south to the rigs. It was spring and the roads south to Violet Grove could not be believed. With all the heavy traffic it was a series of mud holes, that got deeper and soupier. One of the small cars today would get lost in one and never found again.

But the men had to get to the rigs so they plowed through. The routine would go this way. You would get as far as you could before you were stuck. Then you would catch up to a vehicle that had just

Reg and Lil Ross – first home in Deby's Trailer Court, July 1954

been pulled out of a mud hole further down. You caught a ride with that vehicle until he was stuck up to his hub caps in that gooey gumbo clay then while they were pulling that vehicle out you hurried up to the vehicle ahead. That vehicle had just been pulled out of a mud hole and you caught a ride as far as he could go. And so it went.

Henry Deby would haul water to us with a tractor and stoneboat and we filled buckets and basins, heating it up on the stove for washing dishes, clothes, and it was back to bathing in the old tin tub. We spent no more time in the trailer than we had to. It was a treat to drive miles, after Reg's shift on the rigs, to relatives for a bath or to use their washing machine. One drawback to that routine was that after fighting mud roads and being pulled out by cats and tractors, the car, a 1951 Ford was not standing up well to this abuse. It was in need of many repairs and not much money was available for the repairs or for a new vehicle. Of course, who would want to put a new car through that treatment? Henry was pressed into service with his tractor a time or two to pull the car to start it.

However, after a sixteen hour shift on the rigs, all we did was eat and crawl into bed. The sixteen hour shift happened after heavy rains made the roads too impossible for the next shift to make it to the rig to replace the tired roughneck so he had to hang in there for another shift. Summers in Drayton Valley in those days seemed to be very wet. When the rain beat down on the roof of our little trailer at night as we lay in our bed that had been converted over from a chesterfield, Reg would moan. He knew it was going to be a fight to get to the rig in the morning through the mud. After but a few days on the rig he was involved in an accident. While work-

ing on the platform, the catline got loose and the Kelly hoses swung across and hit him, sending him flying off the platform to the ground. Nothing was broken but his leg was badly hurt.

He was taken into town to Doctor Brooks' office. The doctor came out with a lamp, disturbed from his sleep, to try and find out how badly hurt this man was. It did not instill much confidence in a patient when after much poking and prodding, the doctor thumbed through his book before deciding on a course of treatment.

I took him to Edmonton where he spent a couple of days in the hospital. When he got better he did go back to work on the rigs and fought the old battle.

The Debys still did some farming and we used to go to them to buy milk every other day. Since there was not a lot to keep me busy in a sixteen foot trailer, no TV, no money, no garden, and mud up to your ankles when you stepped out the door, I did a lot of reading. But Reg's two younger brothers, looking for work out in the Boom Town would come looking for the odd meal. We had no room to give them a bed or even a piece of floor and no money to loan them so it was the least we could do.

Lest you think that early wildcatting town was all work and deprivation, I'm here to tell you that little trailer was comfortable and cozy. Until, that is, we woke in the middle of the night to the rain pelting down on the roof and the thunder crashing overhead. That was nothing new, of course. What was new was that we were realizing that the rain was not staying outside. The roof had sprung a leak. It was dripping in steadily and right onto our bed. A big wet patch had developed on the blankets beside my legs. I got up and got a basin to catch the water and went sleepily back to bed, trying to keep my legs away from the wet and for the rest of the night trying not to tip over the basin.

Then early the next morning Reg had to go to work so he was not able to fix it. Since it was a long shift he was also not able to fix it the next night and we spent another night nursing the basin on the bed. Finally, he got a day off and got up onto the roof with a bucket of tar to repair the damage.

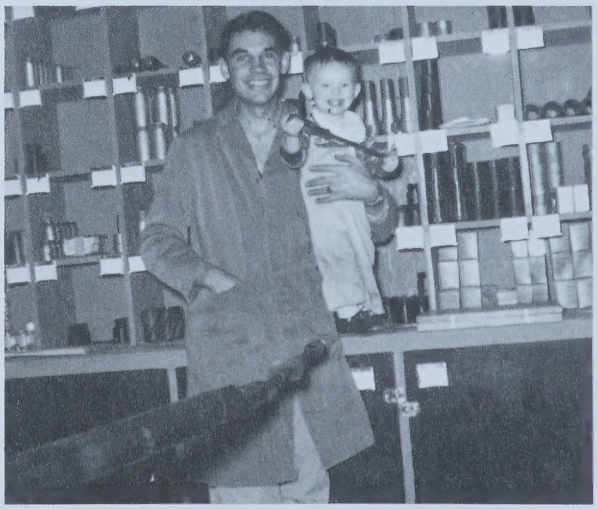
Every night we talked about a different kind of job. Every chance Reg got he explored new possibilities. Once we got all excited about the possibility of taking over Philip Keely's cafe in Violet Grove. That was finally dropped. Then it was driving a truck. But to create yourself a job in 'trucking' you had to invest in a truck. That took money. Relatives were approachable and that possibility nearly came about. Then there was a job driving a bread delivery truck.

He did get on as an E.T.S. driver in Edmonton and that was the first big break. I put in for a job teaching school north of Edmonton, near Morinville. We would be able to live in a teacherage and sell our lovely little trailer. It was a country school and no running water or bathroom but it did have electricity and more room. Things were definitely looking up, even though we were back to wood and coal stoves – no more propane.

Then Reg applied for a job with Lucy Canadian Supply which later became affiliated with Pacific Pumps and he got his next big break. They hired him. Now he was a 'bottom hole pump' man. For a year we lived in the teacherage and Reg drove into the city every morning to work.

After that year we moved into the city and lived in basement apartments – ah luxury! Running water, bathroom, gas heat, electricty – we even bought a TV! I worked for a year at the Correspondence School Branch and then Reg was offered a transfer with Pacific Pumps. They were setting up a new shop in Drayton Valley. Later, Hume and Rumble shared the same shop. Hume and Rumble was managed by John Moody. Reg would be Store and Sales Manager and pump service and repair man all rolled into one person. He would be the only man out here with Pacific Pumps. He was on his own! How sweet it is! We were only too happy to go back to Drayton Valley.

In February of that year, 1957, our son Lonnie had been born. He was 5 months old when we moved back to Drayton. We were eager to get out of the city and get out of our little one bedroom basement suite.



Pacific Pumps Shop in 1959 – Reg and Lonnie two years old

Drayton Valley had changed a lot since we were there in 1954. But it still had its growing pains. In

1954 all traffic was coming into Drayton via the old road, through Rocky Rapids and Moon Lake. Unless, like us, you came through Tomahawk to avoid the worst of the traffic. On the Moon Lake highway huge trucks loaded with drilling pipe and rig parts, along with cars and house trailers moving into Drayton Valley were mired down in deep ruts. The Tomahawk trail did not have as much traffic to dig it up and the road was older and more firmly packed. By 1957 the new road south of Entwistle was built. It was graveled but new and soft, so at times it became heavy and slippery.

Because the oil companies liked to have a man available and on duty 24 hours a day, they were anxious to have us live right there at the shop. So they paid to have our newly purchased skid shack moved over and set up behind the shop. A door was cut into the back of the bathroom so we could share the bathroom with the shop. We built a hallway to connect the back of our skid house onto the shop bathroom. The back door cut into our house from the tiny back bedroom which was the baby's room, led into the little hallway and then into the bathroom. It was a nice set-up except anyone coming from the shop into the house had to go through the bathroom, through the plywood hallway, through the baby's bedroom, through our bedroom and into the living room.

McLean Well Servicing pulling a pump 1958

That was easily adjusted to, though, because in turn we paid no parking rent, no phone and no utilities. To Pacific Pump it was a good move as well because any hour of the day or night people could call, on week-ends, holidays or in the middle of the night. Many a cold winter night he would get up out of bed at 1 a.m. or so, battle through snowdrifts, bring in a pump that the service crew had just hauled out of a hole, spend the rest of the night in the shop repairing it and be ready to have it out to the well site at 5 a.m. because the rig crew would be ready to put it back into the hole.

All that for about $300 a month. He started out in Edmonton at about $150., and the money doubled when we moved out to Drayton Valley. He discovered that it was not so much a promotion that he got when he was transferred to Drayton. It was because he was the only one who would go.

We agreed that we had made the best move. The wages were not good but we were able to buy our house, a car (not a new one of course – second hand), bought a cabin at Lake Wabamun, had the use of the company vehicle with gas paid – we even got to take the company car on holidays. And with the company paying utilities, taxes, license and insurance, we even saved money.

Reg actually became an authority on second hand cars which is probably why in later years he ended up selling them in a dealership. He used to be able to tell the 'I remember back when' time by which car we were driving at that time; "Oh, yes, that was when we had the '51 Ford" or "that was when we had the '52 Pontiac." We sold the Pontiac to a man in Seba Beach for a few dollars down and a promise to pay monthly. That was all we ever got for it. He never paid another dollar.

That was something back then. No-one ever got around to saving money. One friend we knew could not manage to live from paycheck to paycheck. He came and borrowed from us so he could 'make it' til payday. He always came and paid us back when he got his cheque but then before the next cheque came he had to borrow $20 or so to tide him over. People changed their jobs on a whim in those days as well. There was a saying back then: "What the hell! I was looking for a job when I found this one!"

I discovered that it was hopeless to try to push a stroller uptown on gravel. It was not worth the effort. The stroller would have to be put away for a later time – when and if Drayton Valley ever got pavement and hard surface streets.

My yard was solid mud. Everywhere it was mud. Reg put up a clothes line that stretched high above the yard to a pole by the alley from the back step. Soon after we moved in I did a big wash. We had a washer by this time in the shop bathroom but no dryer. Just as I hung the last sheet up with the clothes pins, the whole line came down to the mud below. As I waded out into the yard picking up my muddy clothes, I cried: "God, please send me grass."

Every morning Reg left for work, walked through the hallway, through the bathroom, through

the little apartment that was built later by an older couple who were desperate for a place to live, and into the shop. The couple by the name of Holiday did not stay long. They soon discovered that this sharing the bathroom with us and having a living room that was Grand Central Station was not for them. Lonnie loved to follow his dad to work when he was about two or so. We had to put a lock on the door into the shop. Whenever he found an avenue of escape, though, he slipped in and had to be picked up and put back behind the closed door. One day he was so anxious to escape to the shop he ran right into one of the pumps lying in for repair. "Dad, my head is leaking, he cried", as the blood poured down his face.

The roads out west and south of town were like a spider web, a maze, twisting and winding back into the bush and swamps to the well sites and batteries. One summer day when the roads were dry and packed I decided to take the car and follow Reg out to the field. His nephew came to visit and I decided to show him the field. I had driven with Reg a few times on a Sunday morning or holiday and I thought I knew my way. It wasn't long until I was hopelessly lost and did not know how to get back to the main road to Lodgepole. Luckily Reg found me and I was able to follow him out. He knew the roads like the back of his hand.

The hard top was a long time coming. The lease roads were hard packed dirt and the main roads were gravel. It was not good gravel either as you find it now – the crushed gravel. Then the oilfield workers used to call the gravel that went on the road Texas Pea gravel. We used to say they bouldered the roads – especially after coming back from the field with Reg one day down the Lodgepole road. Lonnie, six months old, laying on the seat beside us, woke and started crying so I picked him up. Just then a half ton passed us on the fly throwing gravel at us. A big rock, bigger than a man's fist spun out from his tire and crashed right through the windshield, landing on the seat where Lonnie had been lying a minute before.

Eldorado grade fives – in middle at front, Lloyd Matlock, Lil Ross teacher

In 1958, I went back teaching school. It was at Eldorado – it was only going to be for a short time, Lonnie was too young yet, I thought. So for a few terms I quit every June and was pressed back into service in September. They always seemed to be so short of teachers. Finally I just stayed on and taught every year until I was ready to retire except for the time that I had our second son Erin. He was born in February and I was back teaching by September. For a few years I taught half time and specialized in music. They were the most enjoyable years of my teaching career.

Reg Ross, Omer Parrenteau, Rosaire Parrenteau, Laverne Moerks

Music always took a prominent part in both our lives. I started playing the guitar when I was ten years old and never quit. Reg played guitar and hauled it around in the truck with him for years from town to town on the seismograph crews. So in 1958 when we met Roserre and Omer Parenteau and discovered they also played instruments we set up jam sessions in the shop.

Not long after that we decided to form a band. Since there already were two guitars (Reg and Omer) I told them I had played the big stand up bass fiddle. I did in Whitecourt back in my first teaching year but very little, only jamming around, not for a whole dance. But carried away with enthusiasm and confidence we drove into the city, bought a bass fiddle, brought it home and played at a dance in Rocky Rapids that night.

Slapping the heavy bass strings was hard on my

fingers and to make it through 4 or 5 hours of playing I wound adhesive tape around my fingers. Otherwise I would end up at the end of the evening with blisters on my fingers. People would look up from the dance floor at my taped up fingers and say: "Oh, that poor girl!" or else they would be saying: "serves her right, she should be home at the kitchen sink." I wasn't too sure.

June 1965 Legion Hall, Omer Parenteau, Lil and Reg Ross, Carmea Moerke

We sometimes called it Rocky Square Gardens out there because it inevitably ended up in a boxing match. Roughnecks would come in off the rigs in their mud caked hob nailed boots, drunk and spoiling for a fight. Sometimes we would play through the whole fracas while people hauled the battling pair outside to finish the fight in the mud and the dark. But other times the whole hall ended up in the brawl. Women stood up on the benches along the sides of the hall and used their high heel to knock someone on the head as they went by. Sometimes we would wait until things settled down and sometimes we would be risking life and limb and intact equipment if we stayed any longer. Then we would grab our instruments and sound equipment and escape as discreetly as possible.

When I was expecting our second son I quit the band (I was four months pregnant). It got to the point that I was leaving the babysitter sitting down with our three and a half year old with a bowl of popcorn to watch my favorite TV program and I wished that I was her. Then I knew it was time to quit.

Reg went on playing. Someone else took my place on the bass fiddle and Reg would tell me all the weird and funny things that happened at the dance that night when he got home. You get quite a bird's eye view up there while you're playing. That alone would fill another book. Like when Ron Brown played the guitar with his mitts on, it was so cold. And when we took on the hall on percentage basis on a record breaking cold New Year's Eve dance and made seventy five cents and that was because we brought a few people with us.

Other band members came and went and a few years later I again joined the band. A while back we celebrated our 30 year band reunion inviting back for a big jamboree all the musicians we had played with over that time frame.

The old Pacific Pumps shop is still there. It now belongs to D.V. Meter. Al Malloy who used to room and board with us bought the shop after we left. He says that the reason he is still in Drayton is because he met Reg at Red Fuhr's garage one day (which became Mayhew Motors and then later Stetson Motors) and was invited to room and board with us. He didn't have to spend lonely nights in a hotel room but became part of our family.

Whenever he and Reg get together they tell the old tales that will stand forever in our memories. Tales like: how everybody used to take their cars down to the river to wash them. Once when Al did he drove in too deep and the water came in flooding the seats of his new car – that beautiful black and white 1961 Chevy Impala two door hard top with the red leather seats. He used it to operate batteries for Mitchel and Associates but it was no match for the International half tons and the Volkswagens that were in the field.

They reminisce about the summer days when after a days work and supper was finished we would head for Wabamun Lake with the boat and water ski until one or two in the morning. They remember when the most prized possession a man had was his car. For a woman it was her home; be it a skid shack or trailer, apartment above the shop where her husband worked or one of those lucky few who actually had a regular house built for her. A man, if he was single, (and sometimes when he was not) would take his girl out in his shiny new car and they would drive out to some lease road to 'neck' or 'spark' depending on what era you're from.

Vatters and Rosses at Masquerade October 1965.

We always seemed to have boarders. The rooms at the back of the shop was where they slept and they ate with us. Phil Vatter started out in Drayton Valley living with us. Omer Parenteau worked for Pacific Pumps and lived there. Then there was my niece Joanne who worked at the White Bull and boarded with us. And her friend Fern who is now Fern Cymbaluk (East of Tomahawk), also boarded with us and waitressed at the White Bull. The White Bull was a more modern addition of earlier Drayton Valley cafes. The Drumstick Cafe back in 1953-54, only had counters and stools, no booths and had heavily built up paths of mud from the door to the stools.

We still had our little skid shack behind Pacific Pumps when Erin was a baby and we added bunk beds to the tiny back room. He was able to sleep through the traffic that came through from the shop only because we set up a fan in his room to muffle out any loud noises or disturbances. For years he slept with that fan going through the night.

When he was tiny I managed to fit a tiny crib beside our bed. There was no room for a big crib but this one was the size of a cradle. I would reach out and rock it when he cried. It was not made well and one day while I was rocking it the spring under the mattress twisted sideways and came apart. My baby went skidding out across the floor on the mattress like a toboggan. This so unnerved me that after I went back to sleep I woke suddenly and looked up to see Erin floating up towards the ceiling, blankets and all. When I leaped up to grab him he disappeared. Wide awake now I lay back down feeling shaky but quite silly.

It was in 1966 that we finally got our first brand new house, a real one, with three bedrooms, a basement and a yard, sidewalks, and a garden around the corner from the old hospital. Who would want to move out of this? But we did.

The time came when we were able to get away on a holiday. We packed the kids in the company car and someone came out from the city to replace Reg for three weeks. Every year for many years after that we made the trek out to the coast. Finally, in 1968 we decided to join Reg's brother in a business venture out at the coast, on the Island. People tried to tell us not to go. They said we would miss them and the old home town. But we didn't believe them. We sold the house, sold the interest in Mayhew Motors, sold the cabin at the lake and we moved to beautiful B.C., like the brochures say.

Not until we got on the ferry with all our possessions in the moving van did it hit us: "We are moving to An Island! We are cutting ourselves off from the mainland. From all our friends and family, our past and familiarities. It was lonely and it was very different. Life was lived at a slower pace. People just didn't strike out and drive for miles on a Sunday and there never seemed to be anything to go to. It was then we decided "You can't live on beauty!"

After a year we moved back. We didn't need to move back to Drayton, we argued with ourselves – maybe Red Deer – that's a pretty place. But in the end, like a homing pigeon, we moved back to Drayton Valley. In a short time we were as involved as we ever had been. I started teaching at St. Anthonys School, re-joined Oil Wives and the Church Choir, The Drayton Valley Entertainers, and the Band again.

The kids found all their old friends still remembered them and they became as involved in Drayton Valley life as their parents.

Welcome to Ceda Analytical Services lab opening ñ Reg Ross

Reg, after starting with operating the Texaco Service Station, he left that to battery operate for Mitchel and Associates. After several years with Mitchel and Associates he became manager out here for Ceda Oilfield Chemicals then later Baker Oilfield Chemicals. Over the years he has worked in most of the aspects of oilfield work from roughneck to battery operator, from lab to management.

Reg and Lil Ross family

Now after retirement from the oilfield he has a partnership in a propane delivery business, Valley Propane. We've moved to an acreage out of town. Lonnie lives up here on the hill and operates his own business: "L.R. Light and Sound" along with "First Choice Entertainment" as well as TV Set-up and Repair.

Erin, after trying out life North and South, Calgary to Grande Prairie, has now moved back to Drayton Valley. He has gone full circle. He's gone back to the place where he was raised – the old shop that is now D.V. Meter. He's back home.

ARCHIE AND DORA RUSSELL

Submitted by Muriel Arthur, Doreen Barr and Helen Darragh

Archie Russell was born in New Westminster, BC, on October 19, 1981. Dora (Marsh) Russell was born in Kent England on June 4, 1906. When she was 10 months old, her parents and one older brother immigrated to Canada. They came to Fort Saskatchewan to be with Dora's widowed grandmother.

Archie Russell in the Army 1919

Archie worked in logging camps much of his life, a lot of that in Oregon, USA. He was in two World Wars, also in the Veterans Volunteer Reserve from June 1940 to March 31, 1945. (Dora was at home managing the farm and raising 5 children).

Archie Russell and two other guards in Veterans Volunteer Reserve

Archie filed on land west of Moon Lake, across the Pembina River in 1928 and built a cabin. He then went back to his parent's home at Ardrossan, where he met and married Dora Marsh on March 2, 1929. They moved to Kelsey where Archie worked for Leon Thirsk on a farm. While there, they were blessed with four children – Harry, July 11, 1930; Muriel, Sept. 4, 1931; Doreen, Nov. 27, 1932; and Robert (Bob) on Feb. 20, 1933. The Russells then moved back to Ardrossan where Dora's sister, husband and family lived (Bernice & Fred Chipchase). They lived there in a granary while they were getting things organized for the move to the homestead west of Moon Lake. On Nov. 5, 1934 the two families moved to Archie's cabin and small addition with a sod roof. It was a tight squeeze with 4 adults and 8 small children. It was for about three weeks while they built a cabin for the Chipchase family on their quarter. These were really not good farming quarters and they were allowed to trade for more suitable land. In the spring of 1935, the Russells moved to Cecil Wall's cabin by the Pembina River while Archie looked for another quarter of land, which he was able to find north of Wall's land.

While they were living in Wall's cabin, Helen, the youngest daughter was born in August of 1936. This cabin was later remodeled for "Elk Head School". We were then living in our house at Bear Creek.

In 1937 the Elk Head School was opened. The three oldest – Harry, Muriel and Doreen – went to school for a while.

Dora and Archie Russell

L to R, Front row – Bob, Doreen Russell. Back row, Muriel, Harry and Helen Dora at homestead by Bear Creek

Dad was working on the sawmill for Bob Stewart and moved the family to Kimberly's farm south of Laurel School. The three oldest went to Laurel School for one winter. Then we moved back to the homestead on Bear Creek. By now Bob was old enough to attend school at Elk Head and the following year Helen started.

Russell children with Granny and Grandad Marsh

When the Elk Head School was closed, the children went to Perryville School, again across the river. We crossed in the rowboat. A lot of the time we missed school when the ice was breaking up in the spring and also when it froze up in the fall. Dad laid slabs on the ice for us to walk on before the ice was really firm. As this was always a worry, Mom and Dad decided to rent Brown's farm on the east side of the Pembina River. We were there for a number of years, had a lot of cattle, pigs, chickens etc. and raised a huge garden. Mom and the girls did a lot of canning, picked lots of wild fruit and berries. Mom was always very good at making clothes for us children, and made most of our clothes. Dad always had a sawmill in the winter months and employed several local people.

Harry was the first to leave home. He worked around Airdrie and Nanton in southern Alberta. Muriel was next to leave for nursing school. A year later Doreen left to take a dressmaking course. Muriel and Doreen stayed together in Edmonton where they were both working.

Harry came back home and bought the farm on Bear Creek from Mom & Dad, also the Folmer farm to the west. He ran cattle there for two years, then sold the farms and moved to BC. He worked many different places as a logger. He was married to Mary George and had seven children. He lived there until he passed away in June 1984.

Muriel moved to Mayerthorpe to work in the hospital there, where she met and married Floyd Arthur. They had two children. Floyd passed away in April 1980. Muriel is still on the farm with her son.

Doreen went to Stanger to work in a store and met and married Allister Barr. They had three children. They still live at Stanger in the summer months and go to Yuma, Arizona for the winter months.

Robert (Bob) worked a lot for John Henkel from Easyford, looking after cattle. He then went to the Kicking Horse Ranch west of Cynthia for four years. This Ranch was owned by the same man that our Mom and Dad worked for at Kelsey (Leon Thirsk). Bob then moved to Chip Lake where he met and married Rose Jacknife. They had two children. They then moved to Carrot Creek for two years. Bob was killed in a highway accident June 4, 1969.

Helen worked in the store and post office at Easyford for Inez Oscar for a while, then moved to Drayton Valley, where she worked in the Grocerteria Foods for a year, then to the telephone office where she worked until she married Lee Darragh. They lived at Round Valley and raised six sons. Lee passed away May 1981. She stayed on the farm until the boys were all gone, then moved to Buck Lake to an acreage in 1994.

Mom and Dad moved from Brown's farm to their own farm one mile south of Easyford Store. They lived there for a few years until Dad had two heart attacks. They moved into a house in Drayton Valley. From there they moved to Summerland, BC for two years and then to Vernon, BC where Dad passed away in July, 1968. Mom then moved back to Evansburg to a small house. She grew lots of flowers and had a big garden. She moved to Drayton Valley to an apartment for four years where she resided until her passing in May, 1992.

HERB AND MARJ RUTZ

Written by Herb Rutz

My earliest trip to Drayton Valley was on June 2, 1953. I was employed by Socony Vacuum Oil Co. at Duhamel, Alberta, a small field in central Alberta. As an Operator/Wireline technician, I was dispatched to Drayton Valley with Wireline equipment and sub-surface pressure and temperature recorders. The drilling rig (Reading and Bates) had been moved off and a Socony Service rig had completed the well. It would not flow, though a surface build up pressure of over 1200 psi. was recorded. Very high for a well of that depth. I returned to Duhamel and a few days later, was asked to return with my equipment. A new procedure under license from Amoco called Sand-Frac was to be performed on the well and the well tested. The procedure went off without a hitch and a new well was born.

We shipped a few loads of crude oil to Nisku via Forsters Transport and then the "Monsoon" season arrived in the area. In early July, I brought my wife Marj with me as it was our decision to make, that we take up residence in the area. More rain stopped further testing. I came back in August and we reluctantly agreed to move, once suitable housing could be secured. Further drilling began. A dry hole near Rocky Rapids and then a much bigger well 3½ miles west of D.V. (N.P. #11-13) which flowed without fracturing. The race was "on". By October, we had 4 rigs drilling and would reach a maximum of 14 in the next months and years. By 1956/57, Socony had nearly completed drilling their acreage, a total of over 600 wells. Other companies, such as Amoco faired as well.

Marj Rutz with Barry and David at New Socony

In December of 1953, I moved Marj and young son Barry to a temporary camp located behind Getzinger's Store. Later, Socony (Mobil) purchased a 1/4 Section, 1 mile West of Drayton, began a temporary camp, and later offices, garage, warehouses, an all weather airport and new housing in the new Town of Drayton Valley. Since housing was critical, suitable local residents were hired. Some of these were Cal Bartlett, Ken Landers, Charlie Herndon, Jack Starling, Billy Robinson, Frank Gurnick, as well as Earl and Clarence Kelly. There were a lot more whose names escape me.

Two more children were born while we were in Drayton Valley. With no hospital, we had to make Camrose, Alberta, as their birthplace. In August of 1957, we would move to Swift Current, Saskatchewan.

David now lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Donna Marie resides in Lloydminster, Alberta.

John MacKenzie standing on the roof of the hotel looking south

Brad, born in Swift Current in 1959. He returned with us to Drayton Valley, in August, 1973. He married Tammy Hartman and now have Aaron and Amanda. They live on an acreage near Rocky Rapids. Barry, our eldest son, married and then returned to Drayton Valley to work with Amoco in 1975. He now resides in Calgary. Donna, our only daughter, married in Nova Scotia but returned to Drayton Valley in 1974. Her two daughters, Wendy and Shelley were both born in the Drayton Valley hospital. They now reside in Lloydminster as well.

My early acquaintances in the District were quite memorable. Jo and Maynard Allen fed me for a while at Violet Grove, while I bunked at the Dave Glenn place in Violet Grove. Other people who I would classify as "Visionaries" were Scotty White, Henry Deby and John McKenzie, Sr. People in the District were found to be very friendly and sharing, although some very wet years had almost wiped out those who were trying to raise crops. The Town of Drayton Valley expansion would improve their quality of life such as schools, hospital, dentists, store, banks, etc.

There still exists the common enemy, MUD. Unique but it still "comes to town" on the trucks and other vehicles of those who work in the area. Our personal involvement brings to mind the Scout Hall (Scoutmaster) and active participation in the Police Commission, Airport Board, D.V. Curling Club and Royal Canadian Legion Branch.

Beginning of construction of bridge across North Saskatchewan River in August of 1956

Although we would return to Drayton Valley in August of 1973 and again leave in November of 1979, we feel we have left part of our lives here. Marj and I retired to Langley, B.C. in December of 1987, after 36 years with Mobil (Socony). Stop by.

MARY RYBAK (BAILEY)

I was born in Ukraine. My family and I came while Dad went looking for a place to stay. We stayed with a farmer and his family until Dad could clear enough land to build a log house. Then when it was finished, we moved to the homestead. There was no road, so it was rough going in a wagon, nor was there a school until the Ramona School was built.

When the Ramona School was built, we started school. Our Post Office was 2½ miles away at Round Valley, so we had to walk about 2½ miles to get our mail.

When I was 10½, my aunt wanted me to come to Toronto to get a job. I travelled by train to Toronto. That was before the second war started. I worked doing housekeeping and lived with the family. Later, I did factory work in different places. I met my husband and we married. A year later we had a child. Later, I came back home to my family and stayed on the homestead for a while. My husband came out west later. We settled in Edmonton, had two more children, and I have been living here since. I have six grandchildren and they all live here in Edmonton for which I am thankful.

OLGA RICHTER (RYBAK)

I was born in a little place called Round Valley, which consisted of a little store and post office. My parents, Katie & Mike Rybak, came to Canada in 1929, from Poland. They built a small house next to what is called the Tomahawk correction line. They then built a bigger house ½ mile south and lived there for many years. My parents grubbed trees by hand to clear land. They worked very hard and raised a total of nine children. I was the middle one. I attended Ramona School and couldn't speak a word of English when I started, but soon learned it fast. When I was in about grade six, the school was moved west which was next to the main highway that went to Drayton Valley. I then went to Athlone School. I had the janitor job there and was paid about $4 to $5 a month, which was a lot of money in those days.

I went to Tomahawk High School and finished grade ten, then went to Edmonton to work. I worked at the Army & Navy Store and didn't like it, so I quit and worked at Safeway as a cashier and enjoyed that very much. I lived in Edmonton and got married to Arnold Richter from Tomahawk. My husband was in construction, so we moved around a lot from province to province. We then bought a farm just 1½ miles north from where I was born and lived there for ten years. I worked at IGA in Drayton. Later, we sold the farm and moved to Wabamun where we retired.

We have four children, 3 boys and 1 girl, and they all live around the area. We have five grandchildren. We do a lot of camping and quadding, looking for old trapper cabins, and taking pictures.

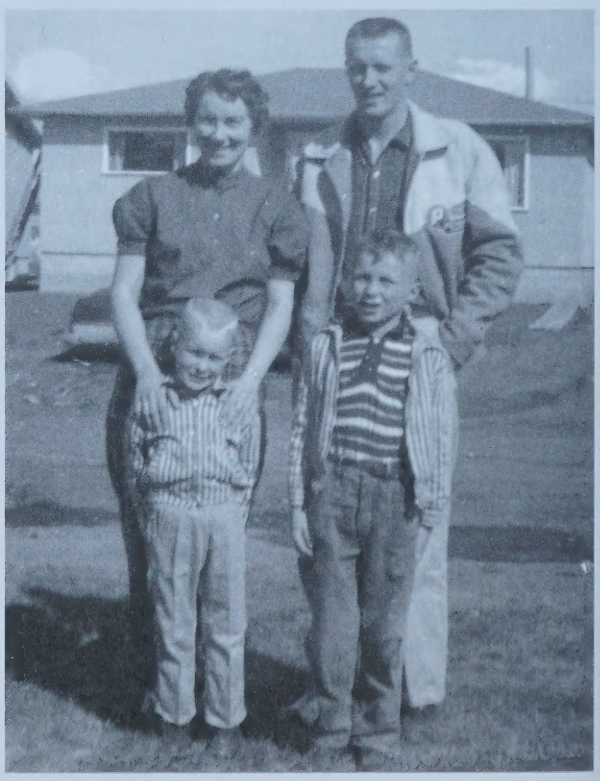
REG AND MARLENE SAMIS

1955 New Oilfield! Pembina Area! Big Boom Underway!

Is this the opportunity for a young couple to have a career in the oil industry? Youth decides to take the chance.

First – a job to go to. We have been working for Edmonton Pipe Line in the Hay Lakes/Camrose field and liked the job so let's stay in Pipe Lining. Try the newly formed Pembina Pipe Line! Yes, we need experienced men, badly, they say. We're on our way.

Second – a place to live- a home- O.K. for $100 dollars a foot you can get a trailer, We'll take 24 ft. Hopefully, this will be enough for a 3 year old (Neil), a pregnant Mum not too far from delivery and a nervous Dad. Delivery came before long and now we have Dean, too. Two babies , Mum and Dad in our 24 ft. mansion in Centre Field Trailer Court with 87 other trailers crammed into the muddy parking lot. We had to go on to Violet Grove as there was "NO Room At The Inn" in the trailer courts in Drayton Valley – all were full to over flowing.



Reg, Marlene, Neil, Dean, Samis

Reg Samis, born October 29, 1931, married Marlene Neilson, born June 15, 1933. We were born, schooled, courted and were married in Bon Accord, Alberta. Our two sons Neil (born July 31, 1953) and Dean (born April 22, 1956) grew up and went to school in Drayton Valley.

Neil married a Drayton Valley girl, Brenda Streit. It was the first and only marriage out of the Pembina Pipe Line employees. Neil is an engineer and they reside in Calgary with their three children Rebecca, Trevor and Brent.

Dean married Nancy Ward, a girl from Swift Current, Saskatchewan, whom he met while playing Junior "A" Hockey for the Swift Current Broncos. Dean is an electrician. He and Nancy live in the community. They have three children Krista, Kori and Kelly who have taken their schooling here in Drayton Valley.

FRED WILSON AND JACK SAWYER

Submitted by Walter Turiak

Fred Wilson and Jack Sawyer bought the north ½ of section 12-48-8-5 from Andy Preston in the fall of 1939. Fred Wilson was in the logging business. For that reason he and his friend Jack Sawyer, bought the Preston Farms. There was a lot of timber on the land, so they logged, sawed it into lumber, and sold the lumber for about $35.00 per thousand square feet. Once they finished logging, they sold the farms in the spring of 1942. The NW 12-48-8-5 was sold to Sam Mikulin for $640.00. Both left the Violet Grove area.

AUGUST AND JOSIE SCHMIDT

By Fern Barnay

August Schmidt was born on April 12, 1894 in Silver Leaf Minnesota, USA. My mother, Josie, was born July 5, 1902 in Kerkhoven, Minnesota, USA. My dad's family came to Canada around 1913, my mother's family in 1912. Both families settled in Irvin AB, close to Medicine Hat. On Nov. 5, 1921 August Schmidt & Nellie Josephine (Josie) Johnson were married.

On the 7th of August, 1922 their first daughter Dena was born in Medicine Hat. April 13, 1925 Lewis was born, also in the Hat.

My mom and dad were farmers, but then came the dirty 30's. I would think that my grandparents were wishing that they had stayed in the US, for in the case of the Johnson's they left beautiful big homes. When my grandparents came to Alberta they had to build sodhouses. When the dirty 30's came there was no rain, crops, water, or gardens. After a few years, no one had money, food, or anything. The government came and told these farmers that they were going to move them up north. My mother's family, the Johnsons, moved back to the US. By that time my mother was married. My dad's family, the Schmidts, moved up north. The government found a farm at Millet so the family moved there.

Later, the Schmidt family moved to Tomahawk where they lived for a couple of years. While living at Tomahawk my dad and his brother Bill, and brother-in-law Bill Brandt would do harvest work wherever they could find it, all the time looking for a place to move their families to and call home. They put names in a hat of places to live. The names they pulled were Lac La Biche and Drayton Valley, so my dad and his brother-in-law Everett Brandt flipped a coin. So that is how the August Schmidt family came to Drayton Valley in 1930.

When they got to Drayton they were told of farmland to homestead in the area of what is now Violet Grove. I don't know why they took out a homestead there. In the fall of 1931, my dad and Uncle Evertt and my dad's younger brother Bill and a cousin Lawrence Schmidt (Bill and Lawrence were not yet married), headed out to their homestead with some food, bedding, guns and a couple of dollars each. All fall and winter the four cut logs, peeled, hued and logged up two log houses. In the spring of 1932 my mother, Josie, my aunt Minna Brandt and their three kids packed all their belongings in two wagons, tied some horses and some cows to the back of the wagon and moved to the homestead. It took them two days to go from Tomahawk to Violet Grove. There was an old farm close to where the Weyerhaeuser site is now and they stopped there for the night to feed the cows and horses. The women and kids slept on the straw stack. The next day when they got down to the coulee south of Violet Grove, the women had to ford two creeks. All they lost in the water was one box of soda crackers. It was welcome home sweet home with dirt floors and roofs that leaked.

Ernie Forsythe built the first store and Matt Burnett built the first post office. Now they had to have a name, so lots of people put in names. My family put in to call this new place Soda Creek. Ernie Forsythe's wife was named Violet, and she found a grove of trees with wild violets growing close to the store, so that was how Violet Grove got its name. Ernie Foresight was a teacher so now the homesteaders got together to build the school. My sister and brother (Dena & Lewis) were two of the first seven or eight kids to start school. All the horses that came up from the prairie got sick and died from swamp fever. Now there were no horses and no money. These homesteaders had to work the land with oxen. They even built roads during the summer

– that's how they paid off their land taxes. In the fall the men would walk for miles until they found a farmer who would give them some work. When harvest was over, the men came back home. When winter came, the men went to work in the logging camps for a dollar a day.

These farmers would gather at houses on weekends. It was potluck and whoever could play would play for the dances. My grandfather, Ernst Schmidt, said they needed a Lutheran Church, so he started the first Lutheran Church in Violet Grove.

On July 12, 1936, my grandmother Bertha Schmidt died. She is laid to rest in Drayton Valley. There was no funeral home, so my dad August, my uncles Bill Schmidt and Evertt Brandt had to prepare the body for burial.

On May 13, 1936, I, Fern Schmidt (Ross) Barnay was born in Edmonton. Six weeks after I was born, my mother Josie Schmidt got sick and after two weeks, she went to the U of A Hospital. It was three months before she got out of the hospital, and she stayed another month in Edmonton with my dad's cousin. It was four months from the time my mother went to the hospital until she came home. There was no insurance at that time. My aunt, Minna Brandt took me home and looked after me. I was almost 1 year old before my mom could look after me. By then the Second World War was on. There was my dad with no job and all the hospital bills to pay. That took about ten or twelve years.

On Dec 26, 1940, my sister Dena married William (Bill) Litke at my grandfather's house. On the 6th of October, 1941, Dena had her first child – a boy. August and Josie now had their first grandson, Arnold Litke. About that time Bill was called to the army. The first time I saw my brother-in-law Bill I cried and went and hid under mom & dad's bed. When Bill left, he took his training out in BC. After six months, Dena went to BC and spent about three months there. Bill went overseas and Dena came back home. Then Dena and Arnold moved to Violet Grove.

In July of 1943, Dena, who had been wearing what I thought were funny dresses, left but she left Arnold with us. When August came, Dena came home. No more funny dresses, but she had a baby girl named Beverly. She was born July 18, 1943. When I asked Mom where Dena's baby came from, Mom said the stork came with it in a basket. I spent days looking for that basket, but no luck.

Jan 29, 1945 my Grandpa Ernst Schmidt died. That was a sad time for me. By this time I was seven years old. I didn't want to go back to school, but in those days kids were not to hurt or have feelings. I still had my two cousins Aella and Albert Schmidt, Uncle Bill and Aunt Lydia Schmidt. In 1946 Dena's husband Bill came home from the war. In 1947 Uncle Bill, Aunt Lydia and family moved to BC's Vancouver Island. That same year my brother Lewis and dad got a horse for me. That horse was Kiykey and had been owned by Matt Burnett. She was his saddle horse so Matt carried the mail from Drayton Valley to Violet Grove. So the first mail came to the Grove on this horse. When the roads got better Matt drove a horse and buggie. Some years later Matt sold the horse to Bob Muir. Bob sold her to Durhams, then some years later my brother Lewis worked for Durhams in their logging camp. They used this horse to skid logs. I think I was about ten years old. Now times got better for my family. My dad got our first car – a Model 'T' Ford. My mother borrowed a violin from the Brownbill boys and played for dances with Eric and Swannie.

In 1949 my brother was working for Urchyshyns in a logging camp. There he met Nellie Hodge and they married in March. They then went to work at Robb where their son was born. Then they moved to Devon where they had two girls. When oil was found at Drayton they lived there until 1970, then moved to Edmonton where Nellie still lives.

In 1954 I married James Ross. In 1955 we had our first girl Verna. In September 1956, my dad August Schmidt died and we laid him to rest here in Drayton. In 1957, Jim and I had a son Lyle. In 1957 my mother moved back to Medicine Hat where her sister lived. In 1958 we had another daughter Connie. She was born here in Drayton. In January of 1960, my mother married Lorne Campbell of Medicine Hat. In July of 1961 we had our last girl Jammie. In August of 1961, my husband James was killed at Alder Flats. We laid him to rest in Drayton. In July 1962 I moved back to Violet Grove. I lived on Uncle Evertt's place. In May 1967, I met Walter Barney and we got married in December 1967. We moved back to Drayton where we still live. In February 1969 my mother passed away and we laid her to rest in Drayton.

My daughter Verna married Robert Rasmussen in April 1973. Her oldest son Kevin was born in August of 1973. Travis was born in October, 1977 in Hinton. Verna divorced in 1980. She has been with Ken Klaver for sixteen years. My son Lyle Ross went to the army at seventeen in 1974. He was in the UN Peacekeeping Corp for three years. Lyle met Deb Martin of Leslieville and they married in August 1977. They now live at Leslieville and have three kids, a girl Dusty-Lee born 1982. Sammy-Jo was born in April 1984, and a son Christopher was born January 1986.

Connie was born in Drayton Valley in 1958 and took her schooling there. Con was our first one to graduate. That was in 1976. She then went to Edmonton to college for two years. Con made her home in the city. In 1979 she met Jack Jenkins and they were married in June of 1979. In February 1984 Jessica was born. In February 1991 they adopted a girl, Jayme-Lynn. In September 1998 her husband took ill and spent three months in the hospital. On Dec 20, 1998 Jack passed away but Con still makes her home in the city.

Jammie took her schooling in Drayton. Jammie spent five years in the Air Cadets and graduated from school in 1980. In 1984 she married Frank Swap from Drayton Valley. Jammie's daughter Kortney was born in Drayton in April 1985. She was born on her grandfather Swap's birthday. In 1987 Frank and Jammie's son was born.

BILL SCHMIDT

Submitted by Walter Turiak

Bill Schmidt moved to the Tomahawk area in 1924 from Many Islands near Medicine Hat, Alberta, with his father and mother. In December of 1928, Bill married, Lydia Knechtel, who was living in the Tomahawk area. They lived with Bill's parents until 1932. In the spring of that year, Bill homesteaded on the quarter section SW 13-48-8-5 in the Violet Grove area. He built a log house that summer and moved his wife Lydia and baby daughter, Ella, that fall. Son, Gilbert, was born 1934. He cleared about 20 acres of land by hand and broke it with horses. He had a few cows which he milked and shipped the cream to Edmonton in the summer. In 1939, he logged his own timber and sold the lumber. Bill also worked in a logging camp with his team of horses in the winter, hauling logs for a few years. The logging camp was about three miles southwest from his place. In the spring of 1945, Bill, along with his family, moved to Vancouver, BC. His brother in law, Everett Brandt, rented the land for pasture and raised grain and hay on the cultivated land, until about 1965. Mobil Oil drilled two oil wells in 1956 on Bill's land. He sold that farm to Joe Dubeau in 1965.

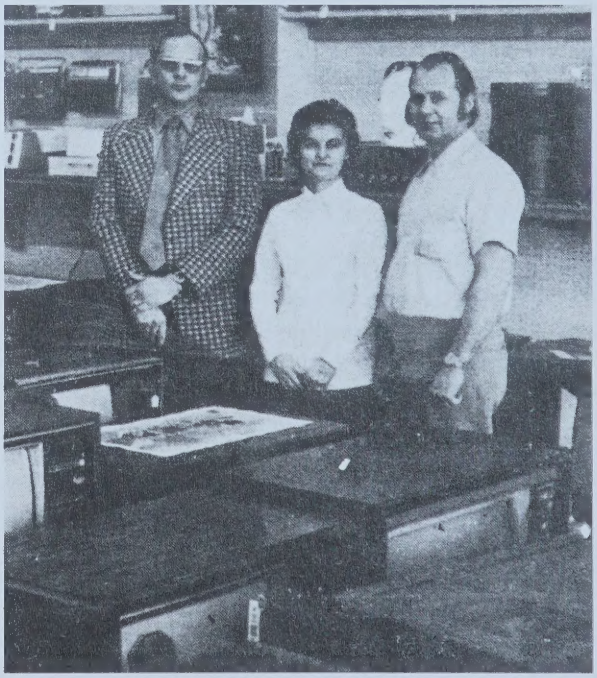
This history of Bill Schmidt was taken from the *Tomahawk Trails* history book.

GUNTER AND ANN SCHMIDT

We were married in Stettler, Alberta, in 1958. Soon after we settled in Lodgepole and began our lives in the Drayton Valley area. Gunter was involved in the Lion's Club as a charter member and taking flying lessons. These activities continued when we moved to Drayton Valley in 1969 with our daughters Audery, Toni and Carol. We had purchased school bus routes in the 60's that were now bringing students into Drayton Valley. Since we had purchased Northern Video Sales earlier in the year from Harvey Nelson, we found this a welcomed move.

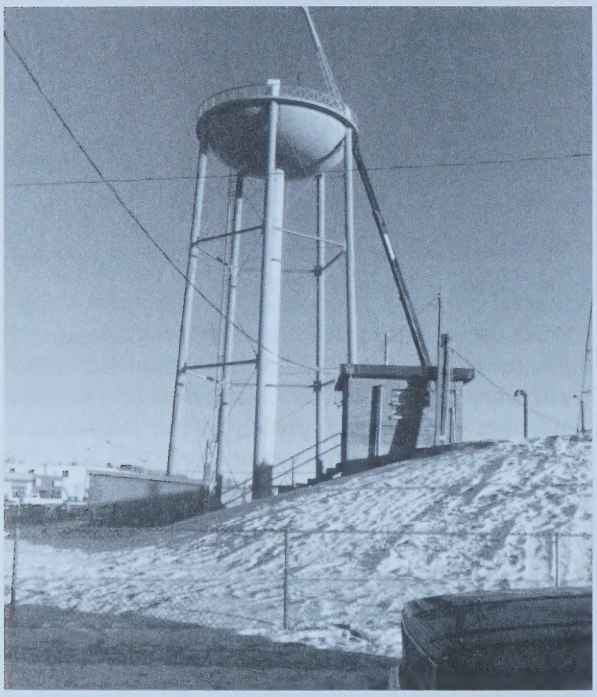
Rodeo parade – Video Electronics

We moved into a new home on 54th Avenue. At that time we could see farm fields from our front yard, where neighborhood children could play. We had a grand vegetable garden in the back and a flower garden in the front that even won us a 1st prize in a gardening contest. We were fortunate to have the best neighbors with the Benoit family living next door.



Gunter and Anne Schmidt win trip to London from Fleetwood

During our years in this home we all had many community ties. Gunter was still flying with a plane he had purchased with Dr. Tony Freeman and Jerry Saunders out at the Drayton Valley airstrip. Jerry and Elizabeth Pohling had taught our girls to ski and for several years they enjoyed using the Drayton Valley ski hill. Carol spent summers in the Neptune swim club at the outdoor community pool. As a family, we spent many a weekend at the farmer's picnic ground on the Pembina River with friends, always stopping at the Dairy King for soft ice cream on the way home.



Erecting the water tower

In 1974, Wendy Sekura asked us to participate as active partners in a hotel project. We sold our tv/appliance store and the Westwind Motor Inn became a reality. Gunter was the general manager and Ann hostess in the dining room. Both Audery and Toni worked there alongside many friends in the dining rooms and kitchen until they graduated from Frank Maddock High School in 1976. While at the hotel, the Chamber of Commerce was reestablished and Gunter became the 1st president.

Our family changed and expanded with Audery marrying David Swap and Toni marrying Lenard Lachance. All still happily married and to date we have 5 grandchildren. LeAn (25), Jerry (23), and Cori (16) Swap. Brandon (22) and Terry (20) Lachance.

By 1978, with only one daughter at home, we moved across town to 45th Avenue. Having sold the Westwind Motor Inn, Gunter purchased a tank truck and worked with pressure truck operator George Elliot. Ann worked for Rend's Mens Wear downtown. She could elaborate broadly on that subject, since Erven Rendflesh's pranks could fill a whole book.

Rodeo parade – Westwind Motor Inn

In 1979, we made plans to build a Red Rooster Convenience Store and motel. It opened in the summer of 1980. This became Carol's after school workplace, with her mother and sister Audery working many late nights. A few years later, the Black Gold became available for purchase and a company was formed that would eventually also purchase our old stomping grounds, the Westwind Motor Inn. Both older establishments needed extensive renovations and we worked hard to bring them up to standard.

Rodeo parade early 1980's Red Rooster Store and Aspen Motor Inn

We started the 90's after selling the Red Rooster/Aspen Motor Inn and both school buses. Little did we know that this would be the last decade in Drayton Valley. In 1985, Audery's husband David was transferred by Norcen to Taber, Alberta. They still reside there and Audery is employed at a large

insurance company. In 1991, Carol graduated from the LPN nursing program and moved to Edmonton where she is presently working for the University of Alberta Hospital. In 1995, Toni finished serving a three-year term on the town council and moved with her family to Red Deer to teach Early Childhood Development at Red Deer College.

L to R, Toni, Carol, Ann, Gunter and Audrey Schmidt

With everything under control and a very capable manager in place for both hotels, we feel very comfortable making our retirement plans. We moved to Leduc, Alberta to enable us to be closer to our family and yet remain close enough to Drayton Valley, the town and its people that we love so much. We will forever be grateful for all the support of customers, staff and friends, and would like to wish them well in all their future endeavors. Thank you very, very much one and all.

GUS AND BERTHA SCHOEN

Our parents, Gus and Bertha Schoen, arrived in Canada in 1927 from Germany, Dad was led by the colorful billboards advertising Canada as a land of opportunity. We've always been intrigued by Mom's sense of adventure in travelling by herself to a new land at the age of twenty-two.

Mom and Dad met in Bruderheim while employed by the Kittlitz family. After a short courtship, they were married in Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton, on April 19, 1928, by Pastor Wahl. Dad often laughed as we girls prepared for months in advance of our own weddings. He and Mom managed to buy a new suit, a beautiful wedding gown, new shoes, and then rounded up a best man and bridesmaid all during the morning of their wedding day. The celebration was complete with a dinner for four at a hotel restaurant.

In the spring of 1929, Martin Richert and our Dad began searching out prospects for homesteads in the Peers, Round Valley, and lastly, the Rocky Rapids area. Our Mom fell in love with the high, sandy area on the hill which became their home for upwards of fifty-five years. In later years, the grandchildren were enthralled by Dad recalling the trek from Bruderheim to Rocky Rapids. All of their worldly possessions were with them. A hayrack pulled by two horses, a cow tied behind, a crate of twelve chickens, a few tools, a meager collection of kitchen utensils, a small wood stove, and a few personal possessions comprised the load. Since this trip took them through Edmonton, the grandchildren had trouble envisioning this procession travelling down present day 111 th. Avenue. Their temporary residence was a one room shack built on the Richert farm. It was in this humble home where they were blessed with the birth of their first child, Cristel, on December 18, 1929.

Gus, holding Cristel, and Bertha Schoen

During the summer of 1930, their log house was completed on the present site. This would be their home for the next eleven years. With the arrival of the depression, everyone found it very difficult to survive, as did our parents. It was during the fall of these years that Dad would walk to Entwistle, catch a train, and would head for the harvest fields of Bruderheim, and later Fort Saskatchewan. We often listened to the recollections of Mom telling about her search for the one cow that traveled far and wide, wanting to return from whence she had come.

On one such escapade, Mom finally caught up with her at South Moon Lake, a distance of seven miles. Her greatest fear was leaving Cristel alone while she did her chores. Mom would also take farm produce such as butter and eggs to Combs' store at Rocky Rapids in exchange for very basic grocery items. Spring and summer months found Dad and Mom busily clearing land for neighbors – Joe Rogas, a bachelor, and Gilbert McCall, the local postmaster. They often did this in exchange for some livestock and machinery. Many hours of intensive labor were applied in clearing and breaking their own land.

The mid-thirties saw severe hailstorms devastate the crops, forcing Dad and Henry Litke to travel to Low Water Lake, east of Tomahawk. They cut hay there and then hauled it home in the cold winter months. It took a day and a night to make a return trip. During this difficult time, two children, Alfred and Vera were born, but died as infants.

Because our homestead was situated at the end of the trail leading west to the Easyford area, our home was a stopover for future homesteaders, hunters, and natives on their way west for hunting and trapping. Some early settlers who come to mind are Garsides, Champagnes, Van Shieks, and Jalberts as well as Stewarts, Shears, Witzens and Youngs. These homesteaders would park their vehicles and then proceed farther west to seek out land on which to settle. Our home would often become an inn for a night or so, where many would enjoy our parents' hospitality. Mom related to us one such incident when a native family with a sick child stayed for several days while the child recuperated. A special understanding developed when Mom and her new found friend came to realize how similar their needs were and the importance of family to both of them.

Laurel School

In January of 1936, the first Laurel School was begun in an old house, one quarter mile north of the latter site. Community spirit prevailed and the "new" Laurel School was built in 1937. This school provided the educational needs for the area and the recreational needs as well. Many wonderful evenings were spent at Christmas concerts and dances in this building where entire families from youngest to eldest would enjoy each others company. In the summer, it was the site for a fun-filled community picnic with home made ice cream and other treats.

Dad and Mom reminisced about the wonderful times spent with neighbors – sometimes at work, other times at play. Neighbors would help each other with wood cutting, threshing, quilting and other odd jobs when the need arose. Fun times were had at house parties, berry-picking and card parties. A great talent of our mom was her ability to design clothing on brown paper and then proceed to sew the finest garments. When the Eaton's catalogue arrived, we were allowed to pick out our favorite outfit, and then Mom would design and sew it. Her dressmaking skills were also put to use for many neighbors and friends. May 12, 1938, saw the arrival of Violet; the first child of the family to be born in a hospital. Dad, being a cheese maker by trade, made cheese for our family as well as for the lumber camps. They would also sell beef, eggs and garden produce to these camps. In order to further supplement their income, Dad would also work in the lumber camps, usually skidding logs.

Schoen's new home 1941

In 1941, our family moved into our new home, a two-story frame structure which is still the main residence on the farm. Henry Drebert was the chief carpenter. On July 17, 1944, the family became complete with the arrival of Jane. The summer of 1946, saw the first land on the homestead being cleared with cats. What a change from the grub hoe and ax! In the following years, the first tractor, a Rock-All, and a GMC truck brought Dad and Mom into the motor age.

The coming of the oil industry saw many dramatic changes to the countryside and especially to

the roads. Roads that were once meant for the horse and buggy and small motor vehicles became impassable with the influx of heavy equipment. Dad took advantage of extra employment by working on pipelines, while Mom provided room and board for oil field workers, since there was a lack of accommodation in the area.

Gus and Bertha Schoen

1957 saw the retirement of Dad and Mom from active farming with the selling of their homestead to their daughter Cristel, and her husband Willie. They built their retirement home on one and a half acres on the corner of land they had originally homesteaded back in the Twenties. Mom always took pride in her garden, her flowers and her yard. With retirement, she found more time to pursue these interests. Dad and Mom loved to spend many summer hours in the garden and the raspberry patch.

In 1961, Dad and Mom returned to their homeland to visit many brothers, sisters and other relatives that they hadn't seen for almost forty years. This return visit affirmed to them that no country could compare to Canada - the country they both loved.

Dad and Mom enjoyed the company of family and friends where one was always invited to sit down for a cup of tea, some of Mom's wonderful baking, and even an occasional glass of homemade wine.

In 1978, Dad and Mom celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary surrounded by family, friends and neighbors. Mom passed away on February 12, 1983. Dad passed away on July 20, 1985.

Gus and Bertha Schoen's retirement home built in 1957

The Schoen family has grown considerably. On June 27, 1948, Cristel married Willie Dusterhoft. They were blessed with four children. Linda, the eldest, married Robin Passmore. They live in Denver, Colorado, and have three children, Steven, Colleen and Kevin. Dwayne died as an infant. Gerald lives in Drayton Valley. Ron married Regina Laminack. They live in Houston, Texas, and have a son, Ross. Cristel and Willie still live on the original homestead. Violet married Otto Dusterhoft on July 5, 1958. They live in Calgary and have four children. The eldest, Dale, married Gail Meyer and have three sons, Jeff, Bryan and Jason. They live in Redwood Meadows, Alberta. Lori married Dennis Crawford and they live in Calgary. Janice married Rod Sulek and they reside in Rocky Mountain House. Cheryl married Kurt Davis and they also live in Calgary. Jane married Herb Zander on July 18, 1964. They live near Drayton Valley and have two sons. Darren married Nicole Charrois and lives in Bonnyville. Daryl married Tracy Wilson and they live in Edmonton.

Gus and Bertha Schoen enjoying their retirement

Although our Mom and Dad lived so intensely to exist in those early years on the homestead, our home was always filled with love, pride and a commitment to family, friends and neighbors. Life in this remote area of Alberta created a need for other people and a caring attitude towards them. As their children we feel we have been blessed by the values they lived every day.

FRED AND FAYE SCHROCK

By Loreen Sales nee Shrock

Fred and Faye Shrock emigrated from the States to Canada when they were fairly young. The families settled on farms around Ponoka, Alberta. When Faye was about 19 she met Fred during threshing season on their place and he liked what he saw!! He pursued this little gal until she said "yes" to his proposal. They were married Nov. 4, 1922, and went to the Yakima Valley and picked fruit for three years. During this time they were in a car accident. The car rolled over an embankment several times and Mom was left with a permanent back problem. The doctors thought she had a pinched nerve between her should blade. She wore out many dresses from rubbing the spot that hurt. They came back to Alberta. In 1926, they attended revival meetings and gave their lives over to the Lord.

Fred and Faye Shrock

New church in Rocky Rapids

Fred loved farming and went looking for a homestead and found the perfect spot, "Rocky Rapids". Fred was a very hard worker and soon had a log house built. They had almost given up having a family, but ten years later Mom gave birth to Harold at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. Three years later his sister Loreen was born on December 21st. She was born at home. Mrs. Mastre was supposed to be the mid-wife but that night she was at a Christmas Concert and the baby wasn't going to wait for her. Harold remembers his dad taking him piggy back to spend the night at the

Fred and Faye Schrock

Harold and Loreen Schrock

Combs and half way there Everett Marskell was coming from the other direction. When he heard the problem he quickly took Harold the rest of the way and Fred went back and delivered the baby! Somebody must have informed Mrs. Mastre as she turned up after the baby was born.

Fred only had a grade 8 education, but definitely felt that the Lord wanted him in the ministry. He helped out in the church for a while as Sunday School Superintendent. Later he was asked to take the pastorate in Drayton Valley for a while. Later Walker and Eva Wright and their three girls took over. I'm not sure about the dates.

Walker and Eva Wright and family

Grade Five class 1942

People used to say that Fred grew the best garden in the area and shared extras with neighbors. Faye was kept busy canning veggies and any wild game that Fred brought home. Their place was a stopping place for friends either on their way to the post office or store. Faye always welcomed people into the home for meals. In the winter all the young people would gather on the hill by the Shrock place to go sledding. They named the hill, "Shrock Hill".

Miss Scullion and Faye Schrock

In 1943, Fred felt led by God to move to Summerland, BC. Actually, he was asked to come and start a church there. It was a hard move as they had made so many friends. It was especially hard for Faye. Children adjust more easily. When I look back I think of how things have changed. People don't usually just drop in unannounced. Through the years people always felt welcome in their home. Faye, my mom, was a most gracious hostess.

The memories of my parents are printed deep in my heart!

THE SEKURA CHILDREN

Tim, the oldest of the Sekura boys, graduated from Frank Maddock High and went into business with his father. In March of 1985, Tim married Colleen Adair of Westlock and they were blessed with two children, Kimberly in December of 1985 and Cody in May of 1987. In addition to his involvement with the auction, Tim has continued to farm with Wendell at Rocky Rapids. Wendell and Tim presently operate approximately 20 quarters of owned and leased land and have a herd of about 350 cows and a back grounding feedlot. Colleen is the bookkeeper in the auction office, performs civil wedding ceremonies in the Drayton Valley area, and serves on the local Chamber of Commerce and the Drayton Valley & District Agricultural Society. Kimberly and Cody are active members in the Two Rivers 4-H Beef Club.

After completing high school, Ron has made his home in Drayton Valley and has continued to pursue real estate sales with Remax, in addition to the operation of a rental business, BRS Rentals. He was involved in the development of Super 8 Motel, Sunrise on the Park Housing, and the H&R Block office in Drayton Valley. He currently sits as the president of the Alberta Auctioneers Association and he is involved with volunteer work in some celebrity sports auctions.

Travis keeps himself busy with order buying and trucking livestock. He makes his home in Stony Plain and is the father of three daughters, Cassie, Cheyanne & Sierra. All three girls are actively involved in art, drama and dance lessons. Travis has a continued passion for rodeo saddle bronc riding.

Cherry has a daughter named Crystal born in November of 1984 and now makes her home in Stony Plain. She is a part owner in the H&R Block office in Westlock where she works at income tax preparation. Crystal is a dedicated student and is actively involved in the school choir.

After high school, Corey attended NAIT for two years, taking business administration. He married Vicki Larose in 1995 and they have daughters Lindsay and Tiffany and a son Wyatt. Corey, Vicki and family have made their home at Rocky Rapids and he continues to be active in the auction business. He has a passion for stock car racing and is the host of an annual mud bog event called "Rapid Fire". Vicki is employed part time at the Drayton Valley Play School. Lindsay and Tiffany enjoy horseback riding and sports.

Tania attended auction school in 1988 but did not pursue a career in auctioneering. She did some traveling and married Chris Thronburg in the summer of 1999. They make their home in Whitecourt where Chris is an electrician at the pulp mill, and Tania operates a home-based business of therapeutic massage.

WAYNE AND LINDA SHIRVELL

Written by Lynda Shirvell

Wayne and Lynda Shirvell moved to Drayton Valley from Calgary at the end of June in 1966. Their three daughters, all born at the General Hospital in Calgary were Janine (5), Simone (4) and Colette (almost 3). Wayne was transferred from the head office in Calgary to the field office in Drayton Valley. He worked for the Oil and Gas Conservation Board.

That fall Janine enrolled in kindergarten with Julia Wilner as teacher. It was held in the basement of the United Church. Simone attended the following year. When Colette turned five the kindergarten was held at the Church of God. The three girls all began their school years at the Eldorado School. In September of 1969, a fourth daughter, Nicole, was born at the Drayton Hospital.

We purchased the NW¼ Sec. 32 Twp-48 R5W5 in Carnwood and Wayne spent the next year building our home. He spent holidays and weekends working on it. We moved into our home on Halloween 1972. The three girls transferred from Eldorado School to Lindale. They took their high school in Breton. Nicole went to Lindale for kindergarten and grades one and two. We transferred her to Breton to take her grade three, where she continued until graduating high school.

Colette, Simone, Janine and Nicole Shirvell

The three older girls had enrolled in Gymnastics while in Drayton and continued for a couple of years. They all belonged to the Carnwood 4-H Club. They all enjoyed drama while in high school. They also participated in basketball, softball and curling. Janine also enjoyed going to gymkhanas. Over the years we all enjoyed curling.

Wayne's biggest dream was to learn to fly. He accomplished this dream when he obtained his license on February 25, 1982. He went into partnership with Matt Leake, Wendy Sekura, and Myron Haluska on a Cessna. Wayne loved flying and took many friends and family on their first flight. Our eldest grandson, Patrick, took his flight when he was just a few months old; he loved every minute!

Wayne left the 'board' after sixteen years and then worked for D. V. Meter. He passed away in June 1994 from cancer. I moved into town that fall. I work in the recreation department at the Drayton Hospital.

After graduating from the Breton High School all four girls moved into Edmonton. Janine married Jerry Imbery and they moved to Morinville. They

have one son, Patrick. Janine works for the TD bank in St. Albert. Simone took Early Childhood at Grant McEwan and after working in a day care for a few years decided to get her teaching degree at U. of A. She teaches a kindergarten class half days and also instructs an early childhood course at Grant McEwan in the evenings. She married Mick Griffin and they have two daughters; Danielle and Kathleen. They live in Mill Woods. Colette married James Simmers and they live in St. Albert. They have two children; Amy and Stewart. Colette works for the Alberta Nursing Association. Nicole lives in Grande Prairie. She married Bill Gourlay and they have one son, Brennan. She works for a hearing aid centre. They are expecting twins in March, 1999.

Since moving to town, I joined the Drayton branch of the Alberta Genealogy Society. I have not progressed very far on the family tree, but have met some relatives from the U.S. and Britain that I would not have known if I hadn't become involved.

MICHAEL AND ANNA SHOSTAK

By Irene M. (Shostak) Stepa

In May, 1939, just months prior to World War II, Michael and Anna Shostak, together with their five young children: Emily 18, Mark 16, Steve 12, Helen 8½ years, and Irene 18 months old, left their comfortable home in Western Ukraine and immigrated to Canada. All their worldly possessions, which they were allowed to bring with them on the ship, were contained in two steamer trunks and some miscellaneous luggage. They arrived at Halifax in June 1939, and from there they boarded a westbound train for Edmonton. After spending nearly two weeks at the Edmonton Immigration hall, Dad was able to procure a small homestead in Moon Lake, Alberta.

Life was very difficult that first year in Canada for the Shostak family. It was back-breaking work trying to carve out a tiny piece of virgin forest to plant a small garden and some kind of crop, and fix the leaky slab lumber shack which was the house, before the winter set in. Between them all and the generosity of their neighbours, they managed to survive.

In 1942 they were blessed with the arrival of a daughter, Dora, whom Dad would adoringly call his "Canadian girl". Dad was a carpenter by trade – he built houses and other buildings as well as wagons, sleighs, wheels, furniture, etc. He and his carpenter's toolbox travelled throughout the Western provinces (via the freight trains). He worked in Vancouver on the Lions Gate Bridge and at various other places on Vancouver Island. His sons, Mark and Steve, worked in the lumber camps around Moon Lake for many a winter to supplement the income, while in the summer they toiled on the homestead clearing more land. Our Mom, all 5'2", was a bundle of energy and determination. She loved horses and was an expert rider. I can still visualize her throwing a blanket over this giant of a horse, fashion some kind of contraption for stirrups with a piece of rope, grabbing the reins and she was flying!

In the spring of 1946, Dad moved his family to Rivercourse, Alberta. He and our brothers farmed, and Dad did lots of carpentry until 1952 when he and Mom moved to Lloydminster, where they enjoyed many years of well-deserved retirement.

CHARLTON AND ANNE SHKROBOT

Charlton and Anne Shkrobot (nee Chornomaz) and their five sons immigrated to the Drayton Valley area (Tomahawk/Round Valley/Easyford) and homesteaded there. They immigrated from the L'vov area in the Ukraine in 1930. They left their only daughter behind in the Old Country (Kisinev, MOLDOVA/Kiev, Lutsk UKRAINE).

VASIYL (WILLIAM) SKROBOT AND YARINA (ISOBEL) GODUN

Submitted by Barry Isenor and Elsie Isenor (nee Shkrobot)

William and Isobel Shkrobot

William and Isobel met and married. They built a log cabin, horse and cow barns, etc. of which some are still standing, on their homestead in the Drayton Valley area (near Round Valley, SW 25-50-8 W5M). There was no road to the uncleared quarter section they bought.

Several years after their marriage Isobel borrowed her sister Rosie Kwasnycia's wedding dress and then Isobel and William walked through the muskeg to Easyford to have their wedding photo taken. Isobel's memory recalls that, once when alone in her cabin, she heard a loud scratching at the window. She was sure it was a bear and hid her head in fright. They lost their first infant (Stephen) to pneumonia. In later years, to add to their grief, William suffered another major injury, this time at the mercy of the hooves of one of his draft (work) horses. As a result, they moved to North Edmonton where they bought 40 acres. Years after moving off the homestead to Edmonton they heard a huge forest fire went through the area, which is evident to this day by looking at the log buildings.

JOSEPH SHKROBOT

Joseph (single young son of Charlton and Anne) was sent off from Drayton Valley, Canada to fight in World War II. He never returned as he was killed in Italy.

TED AND MARY SCHUMAN

Ted and Mary moved from a farm in Naples, Alberta (north of Barrhead) to Drayton Valley, Alberta, in the fall of 1955. Ted worked for Flint Rig as a welder's helper until January, 1956, when he was hired by Stanolind Oil & Gas, as a roustabout in the "G" lease area. He was soon promoted to Battery Operator in the Blue Rapids area and we moved into a new company house in Lodgepole in December, 1956. Ted operated batteries in various areas of the West Pembina Field and also operated the Lodgepole Pan American Gas Plant. In January, 1962 he worked as relief gang foreman in the "G" lease area until he was transferred to Drayton Valley in 1964. We built our first new home at 4707-47 Avenue. After operating various batteries in the Lobstick field he was relief operator at Amoco's gloconite plant and operator at the Berrymore gas plant near Drayton Valley. Ted also spent some time in 1964 at Pan American's exploratory test site at Anzac, near Fort McMurray.

During our years in Lodgepole we were active curling on the Lodgepole "natural" ice rink, which melted for every bonspiel and created extra hazzards of bumps on the ice. Ted also played baseball for the Town of Lodgepole and served on the Town

Amoco Safety Award Presentation at G Lease Field Office L to R Standing, Herb Zander, Mike Karach, Reg Hamilton, Sitting, Ted Schunam, Allen Strazuck

Recreational Board. Ted was instrumental in organizing the Lutheran Church in Drayton Valley, and served as the first president of Emmaus Lutheran Church. Mary worked as bookkeeper for Ed. Moisey & Two M Service until 1964 and as Dealer Accountant for D.V. Ford Mercury Sales Ltd., from 1968-1971.

Amoco Anzac Exploration Site, February, 1964

From 1965-1971 Ted worked in the Drayton Valley office at a variety of clerical positions including warehousing and finally operated the Biggoray Gas Plant near Evansburg until the fall of 1971, when we opened our own business of Drayton Teen Centre, a clothing store for children and teens.

In 1972 we moved to Grande Cache, where we opened our second store, M & T Apparel, and operated both stores until 1976 when we moved to Stony Plain. We operated here until 1986.

Since then Ted has worked seasonally for AMA, as road signing technician in the summer months and enjoys semi-retirement in the winter, part of which is spent in warmer climates. We are presently living in Stony Plain enjoying our new townhome

and the freedom it gives us to travel and visit our children and grandchildren.

Dianne Marie was born on May 16, 1956. She married Harry RivaCambrin of Grande Cache on July 17, 1976. They have three children, Johanne, born on May 1, 1978, Daniel, born on June 15, 1980 and Amy, born on September 8, 1985. Dianne and Harry live in High River, Alberta, where Harry is manager of the M.D. of Foothills and Dianne works as receptionist for Cargill Foods. Joanne is attending the University of Lethbridge, working towards a Computer Science Degree. Daniel is in grade 12 in High River and plays "A.A." hockey for High River. Amy is in grade 6 and loves swimming.

Ted Schuman with children Dianne and Brian at the the Lodgepole company house

Brian Stuart was born on November 4, 1957. He married Dawna Goebel of Spruce Grove, Alberta, on September 1, 1984. They have three children, Alexander, born on November 14, 1989, Kristopher, born on April 8, 1991 and Aaron Caleb, born on November 30, 1994. Brian graduated from Concordia College and NAIT with a Civil Engineering Degree. Brian and Dawna lived in Campbell River, B.C. until March, 1998, where Brian was Area Manager for Tayco Paving. In March of 1998 they moved to St. Albert, where Brian purchased a partnership in G & J Construction, in Edmonton. Brian and Dawna enjoy curling and caring for their 3 sons.

Laurie Ann was born on September 17, 1962. She married Steve Parkinson of Thunder Bay, Ontario, on August 22, 1981. They have three children, Jennifer, born on July 16, 1983, Matthew, born on April 11, 1985 and Michael, born on March 21, 1988. Laurie graduated in Stony Plain and worked at M & T Family Apparel until 1983. Steve is shop foreman for Western Star Trucks in Edmonton. Laurie works at the Shoppers Drug Pharmacy in Spruce Grove. Jennifer has acted in several plays at Horizon Stage, Spruce Grove. Matthew and Michael play football in the summer and Michael is the hockey player in the winter.

We have many fond memories of our 17 years in Drayton Valley and still have many good friends, made when our children were young and we were involved in the many activities we shared. We are thankful for our family, friends and good health the Lord has given to us.

ELMER AND MAUREEN SCHWAB

Written by Maureen Schwab

As I write this on December 31, 1997, the Schwab family has been in the Drayton Valley area for 39½ years … so we are not pioneers in any sense of the word. My late husband, Elmer, was raised near Battle Lake, Alberta, and I near Rimbey. We moved to Drayton Valley in July of 1958 … Elmer had previously worked and lived at Alder Flats for two years, where he worked as a welder … his life-long career.

When we arrived in Drayton Valley, our home was an 8' x 14' homemade trailer without the luxury of an indoor bathroom, it wasn't really a hardship for me, being a good old country girl and used to the outdoor conveniences. The size of our home did limit our lifestyle somewhat, but with the oilpatch being very busy and a workweek that was usually around 80+ hours, we really didn't need a huge dining room and parlour to entertain. In the late fall of 1958 we bought a mansion, a 8' x 20' trailer, complete with a sink and taps, but still no inside bathroom.

When our son Dale arrived on the scene, we had to move out the couch to make room for a crib, and the bathroom facilities were half a block away in the community wash house. Washing baby clothes on a scrub board and hanging them out on a clothes line tied in the trees in 30 below was one way to get fresh air, although I much prefer my modern laundry facilities. We lived in Deby's trailer court for the first few months, then in the Western Trailer Court. Our trailer was parked right where Extra Foods Store is today.

Elmer's welding business took him to many

parts of the province, Swan Hills, Rainbow Lake, etc. Trailer court living lent itself to many friendships among the women who were keeping the home fires burning while their husbands were away. When Dale was 1½, we really came up in the world with the purchase of a 10' x 46' trailer. This one had a bathroom and a automatic washing machine. We lived in the Western Trailer Court until 1963, when we bought a lot in the old Mobil Trailer Court on 45 Street. In 1962, our youngest son, Danny, was born. We moved out of the trailer court and onto our own lot, it being a welcome change.

In 1966, we moved again, to a house across from the Evergreen school; and even more room. Elmer was still working away a lot and the boys grew up keeping busy with various activities, Cubs, hockey, etc.

In 1972, we decided to make a real change in our life style and purchased a farm in the Round Valley area, 10 miles north of Drayton Valley, which we named Emerald Springs, a combination of the names of our family members. In 1974 we moved to the farm and my love affair with the cattle business began. We raised a few horses as well. Elmer continued to operate his welding business as well as doing some consulting. The boys grew up, finished school, and of course as time went on, our family included some girls, our two daughters-in-law. Elmer had experienced some serious heart problems in the early 1970's. His health deteriorated and he retired from the oilpatch in the mid-eighties. He missed his work but continued to keep busy on the farm as his health permitted. Elmer passed away in 1990 at the young age of 53. He lived to see both his sons married and to enjoy his very special grandchildren for a short time in his life.

Dale married Bev McMillan. Her parents are George and Donna McMillan, who operated McMillan's Auto Body in Drayton Valley for many years. Dale and Bev are the parents of Alana, born in 1977, and Jeremy, born in 1980. Dale is employed with Dial Oilfield Service in Drayton Valley and continues his lifelong love affair with hockey as a referee. Bev is a LPN and an ardent hockey mom. Alana passed away after a valiant battle with cancer. Jeremy is married to Toni Jean Bierkos and they have a son, Kash.

Danny attended NAIT and obtained a degree in Earth Resource Technology. He worked for several years in the Middle East before buying a farm near Emerald Springs. He married Barb Craig, the daughter of Norm and Jean Craig of Olds, Alberta. Danny and Barb have a daughter, Stephany, born in 1989. Danny is an operator at the Petro Canada Brazeau River Gas Plant and Barb teaches piano. It is wonderful for me to have my family close by and it is wonderful to be able to spend a lot of time with my grandchildren while they are growing up.

Since Elmer's death I have continued to run the purebred cattle operation. In addition to that I have been involved with several committees, which are directly related to the cattle business. I spent several years as an assistant 4-H Beef Club Leader and enjoyed working with the young people, many of whom have gone on to become very successful young adults.

In 1992, I was the first woman appointed as a farmer representative on the Agricultural Service Board with the M.D. of Brazeau. I enjoyed working as a member of the ASB and became increasingly more interested in municipal politics. In 1995, I ran for Council of the M.D. of Brazeau and was elected. In 1995 I was honored to be a Nominee for Alberta Farm Woman of the Year.

There have been many changes since our family arrived in Drayton Valley. Many changes have taken place in our family since the days of the home made trailer of 1958. Changes also have been constant in the entire area as has been evident watching the Town of Drayton Valley grow from a town literally made up of shacks, to an established community with all the amenities of the larger urban centres, but still keeping close ties to the rural life. The rural area has of course changed a great deal. More and more land has been cleared and put into agricultural production. We are finally recognized as a multi industry area of Alberta.

What's in store for this member of the Schwab family in the future, who knows! I know that I will remain in the cattle business as long as possible. I enjoy the animals and the association with the many wonderful people I have met in the agricultural industry.

A political career is never a sure thing so I won't speculate on that. I enjoy the opportunity to serve this community that has been very good to our family. I am sure that there will continue to be members of the Schwab family in this area for many years to come. Hopefully we have contributed in some positive way to the history of Drayton Valley and Brazeau Country.

WENDELL AND HELEN SEKURA

By: Colleen & Kimberly Sekura

Wendell Sekura was born in Croatia and immigrated with his mother and father to Canada in the late 1930's. His family purchased a sugar beet farm in Taber and later relocated on a farm in the Brooks area.

As a young man, Wendell was no stranger to

hard work and spent many hours working in the fields and on the farm. After leaving school, Wendell continued to farm with his Dad for a short time, but livestock and crops were not enough to fulfill Wendell's drive and ambition. He found he was pulled in a different direction...the auction business. He worked for two years as a ring man in the Brooks Auction and liked the speed with at which decisions were made in the auction business. There was no school of auctioneering in Alberta at the time, so Wendell headed off to Iowa. After graduating from Reisch School of Auctioneering in Mason City, in March of 1958, an enthusiastic young auctioneer went to work. His first job was selling for Hank Charlton Auctions of Brooks.

In June of 1959, Wendell married Helen Ens of Brooks. Their marriage was blessed with a son, Tim in 1960, followed by Ron in 1962 and Travis in 1963. Wendell soon started his own auction business, selling lumber, miscellaneous and farm sales and he was one of the first to sell real estate by auction in southern Alberta.

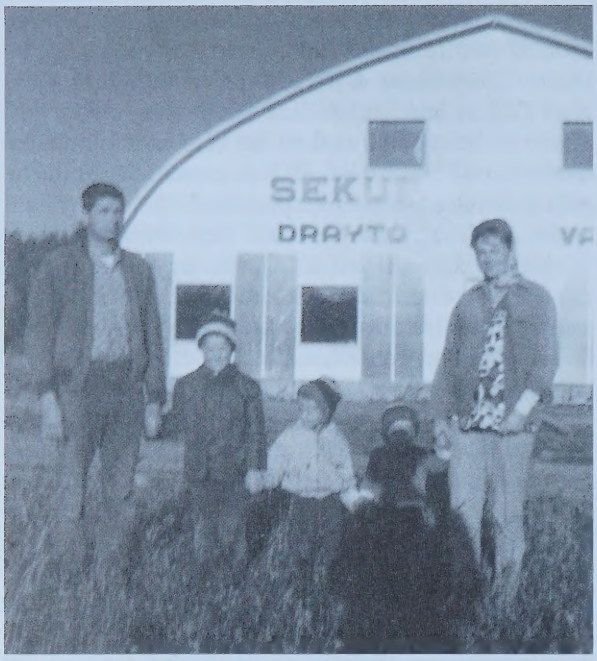
Wendell Sekura in 1970

Responding to a newspaper advertisement for a need for an auction market in Drayton Valley, Wendell moved from Brooks to Drayton Valley in June of 1965. Despite the uncertainty of others, Wendell believed that Drayton Valley was an ideal location for an auction. He purchased 40 acres of land from Eric Jonzon and began building an auction market on its current sight on the south side of Drayton Valley. Wendell experienced some difficulties with the required paper work to license the auction and although the building was ready for holding an auction, the proper licenses and bonding could not be obtained until March of 1966.

On July 5, 1965, the Drayton Valley & District Chamber of Commerce sponsored the first annual 4-H Beef Club Show & Sale at the auction yard, with Karl Degen and Wendell as auctioneers. The 4-H Show & Sale continued to be held at the auction market until 1982 when it was moved to the local arena. Sekura Auctions sponsored the award for "Best Calf Shown by a First Year Member" and Wendell has continued to present this award up to the present time. In 1989, the Sekura family was presented with a plaque from the Drayton Valley & District 4-H Interclub for 25 years of support to the beef program. Wendell and sons Tim, Ron and Corey continue to provide complimentary auction services for the 4Hers. Now the sale falls on the last Monday each May.

Trucks at auction mart in the spring

The family grew with the arrival of Cherry in September 1965. With the proper licenses and bonds in place, the first sale was held on March 2, 1966. This first sale at Sekura Auctions offered 17 head of cattle and 4 pigs. Coffee and donuts were served and Wendell acted as trucker, yardman, auctioneer and clerk. Regular sales have been held at Sekura Auctions every Wednesday since that date and the numbers have grown progressively larger. To assist in the operation of the auction market, Wendell hired Matt Leake to act as clerk, and auctioneers Arlie Murray, Karl Zajes, Slim Martin and John Isley. In addition to regular livestock sales, Wendell began listing numerous farm auctions, holding vehicle, machinery consignment sales, horse sales, close out and antique sales, real estate auctions, and specialty sales. The first annual feeder cattle sale was held September 20, 1967, followed by the first annual sheep sale held September 30, 1967.



L to R, Wendell, Tim, Ron, Travis, Helen Sekura

The family grew again with the arrival of baby Corey in 1969, followed by Tania in 1971.

Wendell has always been a community minded businessman. He served as president of the Drayton Valley Chamber of Commerce for a number of years in the early 1970's and continues to be a member in good standing of the local Chamber of Commerce.

Wendell has continued to support the annual charity auction to raise funds for Drayton Valley's developmentally handicapped. For over 30 years, Wendell and the staff at the auction have donated their time in support of this local charity, raising an increasing the amount of funds each year.

Wendell initiated the setting up of the Canadian Livestock Markets Association and was a charter member of the Canadian Auctioneers Association. He was instrumental in the formation of the Great West Feeders Association and was a founding member of the West Alta Livestock Breeders Association.

The first annual bull sale by the WestAlta Livestock Breeders Association was held April 22, 1967, at the auction market, with 21 bulls averaging a price of $369. The sale was rather hurried because the association was formed only a few weeks before the sale. The top price of $465 for a two-year-old Hereford bull went to the Cormie Ranch of Tomahawk. Buyer was Ed Schadeck of Tomahawk. Top price of $355 for a yearling Angus bull went to MacKenzie Angus Farms of Drayton Valley. Top price of $330 for a yearling Shorthorn bull went to Mrs. Stella Joneson of Tomahawk.

Wendell was also a key organizer in the Maverick Roping Club and the development of the local rodeo. Organized by the "Maverick Roping Club", the first annual Klondike Stampede was held at the auction market on July 22, 1967 with 2200 local residents in attendance. Following a parade in the downtown area, activities moved to the rodeo grounds at Sekura Auctions. Events included the crowning of Frances Meraw as Rodeo queen, and 76 entrants participated in other rodeo events. $815 was paid out to the cowboys. Saddle bronc winners were George Hines and Bob Gilbert. Calf roping winner went to Herb Gilbert. In later years, the stampede was to be taken over by the local Lions Club for promotion and renamed the Evergreen Rodeo.

To meet the growing needs of the auction, additional corral space was added in 1970 and 1971, and again in 1972 and in 1973. November 5, 1975 Sekura Auctions reached a milestone in selling 1050 head of cattle in one day. It was the first time Wendell had had a sale of over 1000 head. Wendell started selling livestock at 1:00 pm on Wednesday and completed the sale at 4:00 am Thursday morning, a full 15 hours of auctioneering for Wendell.

As if the schedule of running a busy auction market and the demands of a big family were not enough, Wendell formed a real estate company. Farmers and Ranchers Real Estate listed and sold real estate in the Drayton Valley area. Salesmen in the newly founded real estate firm included Noel Duteau, Zib Szatkowski, Tom Ross, Ron Gale, Gary Broadbent, Jerry Pohling, George DeGroot and Vera Hazzard, and in later years son Ron obtained a real estate license. Helen assumed the responsibilities of secretary of the real estate office in addition to bookkeeping at the auction market.

Wendell and his partners, George Broadbent, Cecil Bredin, and Guenther Schmidt also undertook the construction and development of the Westwinds Hotel. The grand opening ceremonies were held January 25, 1975, and although the hotel has since changed ownership, the Westwinds Hotel continues to serve the community of Drayton Valley. Wendell has always been a strong believer in the potential of the town of Drayton Valley and went head to head with town planners back in 1979 fighting for the developers of our community.

Additional office space was built in 1978 and electronic scales were introduced in 1979. The Sekura children could always be found helping out and they were off to auction school at an early age. In addition to their participation at the auction market, the Sekura children were all actively involved in 4-H and community activities. Tim completed his

auctioneer's course in 1977, followed by Ron and Travis in 1978.

Sekura Auctions evolved into a family business and as the family grew, the business expanded. Wendell and sons continued to hold one to four sales per week and Sekura Auctions was even asked to conduct the auction for the local hospital in May of 1984. Everything from beds to bedpans was auctioned and funds from the sale, approximately $22,000 were designated to help defray the cost of demolition of the old hospital building and leveling of the site.

In the summer of 1985, Corey attended auction school and a fourth son was added to the family of auctioneers. Excavation for the new building began in the fall of 1985 and the first sale was held October 4, 1986. The new facilities included a 20,000 square foot building with all steel pens, a carlot load sales ring, wash rack and inside penning for approximately 500 head of calves. Additional penning is available for up to 1500 head and portable panels are accessible for any excess.

The grand opening of the new livestock pavilion was held on March 7, 1987 in conjunction with the 21st anniversary of the business. The Sekura family invited all their customers to join them in celebration and the auction kitchen served up beef on a bun for some 300 guests. Associate Minister of Agriculture Shirley Cripps, and Mayor Bob Mayhew were on hand to join in the official ribbon cutting ceremony. John Henkel, who purchased the first animal from Sekura Auctions, was presented with a special buckle to mark the occasion.

In 1987, frustrated with the portion of income taken by various levels of government for taxes, Wendell staged a "one man protest" against the tax system. He arrived at the Parkland County office with his tax payment of approximately $11,000, all in $1 bills. Wendell was protesting against the tax system, stating "the continual increase in the taxing system removed people's incentive to work". He went on to say that "some families have to pay five to ten times more than others for exactly the same service and he was disillusioned by the appeal process. It took the county workers approximately 1½ hours to count Wendell's tax payment. Even today he continues his vigil against the bureaucracy, which seems to continue to expand uncontrollably.

After working hard to meet the needs of its customers for 30 years, the auction celebrated its 30th anniversary. Customers were rewarded for their continued patronage with a celebration serving up beef on a bun for several hundred customers on March 6, 1995.

The growth of the auction was complemented by the growth of the farm. In 1995, the Sekura family was among 33 other Alberta families presented with the Northland Farm Family Award.

Sekura Auctions employs between fourteen and twenty employees for each sale and offers its customers a wide variety of services. Services available include branding, vaccinating, trucking and order buying.

Although Wendell and his wife Helen are no longer married, Helen was an integral part of the operation from its inception and she played an active role in the family's participation in 4-H and community activities. She was in charge of the auction office until 1991, when she moved to make her home in Spruce Grove.

The auction market found growth in various areas. Livestock became more diversified and exotic animals were introduced. The first llama was sold at the market in 1993, followed by the first bison sale in November of 1998. The office became computerized in the early 1990's and the weekly auction market report and sales calendar were available to Internet users in 1997 and numerous sale listings became available on line in 1998.

For Wendell, fondly referred to by friends as "Wendy", "auctions represent one of the purest forms of plain old free enterprise". He says "the auction method is the most current price trend setting method of marketing available". He believes in Drayton Valley and the people here, and considers himself fortunate to be part of such an outstanding community.

JAMES & IVIE SELIN & FAMILY

Written by Ivie Selin

Ivie and James Selin

We moved to Drayton Valley in August of 1962 from Hay Lakes as James was transferred with Imperial Oil Ltd.(Esso Resources). Our first home in Drayton Valley was at 4820-54 Ave. where we lived until 1975 when we purchased a quarter section of land from Albert and Twyla Getzinger (NE27-49-7 W5th) near the airport. James passed away Aug 28/91 and I stayed on the acreage until August /97. 1 currently live in the house I had built on 5571-38 St in town (Northview Gardens).

We have fond memories of life in Drayton in the earlier years. Lots of good friends and activities for the whole family; curling, hockey, figure skating, swimming, cadets etc. It was a time when there where few fences on the properties, you hardly ever locked your doors and good friends were like family.

In 1970 1 went into business with Opal Gano and bought out Elsie Kazoleas's share in The Sewing Basket. In June 1977, we sold the business to Sharon Schatz, Linda Bauman and Getty Gubbe. I continued to work in the fabric business for Mary's House of Fabrics off and on until 1989.

James worked for Esso for 29 years and retired January 1, 1983 at age 55. He did some consulting after his retirement and we traveled to New Zealand and Australia in 1984. He enjoyed curling, golfing and entertaining people with his accordion and the piano.

We have a family of 4 children, Wayne, Carey, Cameron and Corinne.

James and Ivie Selin's family

Wayne married Judy Labituk in 1972. Wayne has his electrical and instrumentation papers and has worked with Imperial Oil Ltd. in Swan Hills, Norman Wells, and Calgary. They currently live in Fort St. John, B.C. and Wayne is employed with Petrocan. Wayne and Judy have three children, James, Scott and Joelle who all live in and around Ft. St. John.

Carey lives in Drayton Valley and owns and operates Sure Shot Fluid Levels. He is single and spends his spare time golfing or fishing.

Cameron married Joanne Romansky in 1982 and has two daughters, Cassandra and Alyssa. They have lived in Brisbane, Australia for many years. Cameron is an engineer who also works in the oil industry for Santos Ltd, an Australian Oil Company.

Corinne married Barry Wasyliw in 1989 and resides in Calgary. They have two boys, Adam and Lucas. Barry works for Post Energy Ltd. and Corinne in currently at home with the boys.

DON SHEELER

Don was the son born to Mitchell and Elizabeth Sheeler. Elizabeth died when Don was just a few months old. His father remarried when Don was three years of age. He lived with his father and stepmother in the Ardmore area near Czar for several years before moving to Edmonton, then Rocky Rapids.

Don, Keith and Mitch Sheeler and Debbie

Don married Adeline Lank in 1953. He worked in lumber mills in BC and in Alberta and then settled on a farm in the Moon Lake area. Five children were born to Don and Adeline – Debbie, Marlin, Roger, Gwen and Kelvin. At age 11, Debbie died of leukemia. About a year later, Don and Adeline rode with friends to a July 1st sports day in the area. They were both killed when the car they were passengers in hit an embankment. Their children went to live with Jack Lank, their maternal grandfather. Don's children attended school at Evansburg. Don's family are the only Sheelers who have remained in the immediate area.

Don's son, Marlin, has worked primarily in the Pembina Oilfield. He married Tammy Sauve, originally from around the Tomahawk area. They have

two sons, Chad and Landon. Marlin lives in Drayton Valley. The boys live jointly at their dad's home and Tammy's home in Lodgepole.

After completing high school, Roger worked in Hinton and on gravel crushers in the Yukon. He married Colleen Haynes. Roger worked for many years in the oilfield, spending five years working overseas in Libya. They live in Edmonton where Roger now works in the plumbing trade.

Gwen married Wayne Bayrack from Edmonton. Although they maintain a residence in West Bank, BC, they have lived in several countries as Wayne has worked as a heavy-duty mechanic in various mining operations. They have two children, Valerie and Ryan.

Kelvin has primarily worked on service rigs in the Pembina Oilfield, as well as owning steamers with hired drivers. He also tried his hand at the second-hand store business in Hinton. He married Glenis Sauve, Tammy's sister. They have three children – Kyla, Ryan and Jennifer.

MITCHELL & HAZEL SHEELER

Mitchell Sheeler and his wife, Hazel and their family arrived in the Rocky Rapids area just around the time WW II ended. They came from Wildwood where Mitch had been working in road construction. Previous to that, Mitch had worked in Edmonton for a few years.

Mitchell and Hazel Sheeler with Hazel, Margret, Stewart, Keith, Albert and Velma

Long before the term was a commonly described family lifestyle, Mitch and Hazel had a genuine blended family. Mitch's first wife, Elizabeth, had died when their son Donald was just a few months old. When Don was three years old, Mitch married Hazel McAlister who had a one-year old daughter, Margaret. Hazel's husband, Lester, had been killed in a shooting accident. Mitch and Hazel's marriage brought four more children – Stewart, Albert, Keith and Velma.

When first married, Mitch and Hazel homesteaded a few miles north of Ardmore, near Czar where they lived for several years. They provided for their family with a mixed farming operation. Stewart, Albert and Keith were born during that time. Margaret remembers that Mitch played the violin very well and, to make money for the school, they would hold dances at the school with Mitch always the fiddler. He also played the accordion and harmonica. She describes her stepfather as being the smartest person she has ever known.

Sometime, around 1937, the family moved to Edmonton. While living in Edmonton, at least some of Mitch's employment was operating heavy equipment. The building of Groat Road in Edmonton is one of the construction projects in which he was involved. He also landed his first job with the federal government while he lived in Edmonton. After their first stint in Edmonton they moved to Wildwood where Mitch worked for the government, building roads. Their daughter, Velma, was born there in May, 1945. The first two letters of her name commemorated VE day.

When Mitch first came to the Rocky Rapids area, he operated a caterpillar tractor at Propp's camp southwest of where Lodgepole was established years later. Then, with a brand new cat, he went cat-skinning for Ed Olney, clearing land and doing whatever work there was at the time. Mitch eventually bought two of his own caterpillars.

Because the nature of his employment required a lot of moving around the country, the Sheeler children attended several different schools in the area. When Mitchell worked at Propp's lumber operation in the Pembina area, the children attended school in a building which had been designated as a school right at Propp's sawmill site. When the Sheelers found a more permanent dwelling one mile east of George Badick's homestead, the children attended Dunnington School. After a few years of working in road construction, for sawmills and doing whatever he could to keep his machines busy, Mitch sold his cats and bought his own sawmill in the Pembina area. The Sheelers lived in the Dunnington area from 1948 to 1952. Then they moved to Drayton Valley.

After a couple of years in Drayton Valley, Mitch and Hazel and the younger kids moved back to Edmonton. Having sold his sawmill in the Pembina district, Mitch went into the taxi business. He owned and operated a cab for the Barrel Taxi Company in Edmonton. He also drove for Yellow Cab after he sold his own taxicab. Don had stayed in the Drayton Valley area to work in the sawmills there. Margaret had moved to Edmonton earlier to further her education, having taken as much schooling as she could in Drayton Valley (grade 9 at the time). She went to night school while working at Eatons, then attended business college and eventually worked for a chartered accountant in Edmonton.

After Hazel's death, Mitch moved back to the town of Ardmore where he married Blanche Johnson. They later moved to Edmonton where Mitchell died in 1978. Blanche still resides in Edmonton.

Mitch's son, Don, married Adeline Lank in 1953. Don worked in lumber mills in BC and Alberta and then settled on a farm in the Moon Lake area. Five children were born to Don and Adeline – Debbie, Marlin, Roger, Gwen and Kelvin. At age 11, Debbie died of leukemia. About a year later, Don and Adeline rode with friends to a July 1st sports day in the area. They were both killed when the car they were passengers in hit an embankment. Their children went to live with Jack Lank, their maternal grandfather. Don's children attended school at Evansburg. Don's family are the only Sheelers who have remained in the immediate area.

Margaret McAlister Sheeler married Ken Wallace who was stationed in Alaska, serving in the US Air Force. They were married in Edmonton. Some time later they moved to the US where he was stationed in different locations. They had a son, Jim and a daughter, Jeri both who were born in the US. Ken has now passed away and Margaret lives in Sacramento, California.

Albert was killed in an automobile accident when he was a young man of 18 or 19 years.

After completing high school in Edmonton, Stewart became a denturist. He married a lady named Darlene Henkelman from Edmonton and from that union one son, Rocky, was born. Stewart and Darlene were divorced and then Stew married Irene Wishloff from Edmonton. They had one son, Kirby. Stewart lived and worked in Lloydminster. Later he and Irene moved to Paradise Hill, an hour's drive from Lloydminster. Stewart died in 1999 at the age of 63. Irene still lives in Paradise Hill.

Keith became a denturist and dental technician. He is married to Lou Glew from Edmonton. They moved to Reno, Nevada from Edmonton in 1964. They have three children – Mick, Cindy and Renee. They now live in Grants Pass, Oregon.

Velma married Charles Bonner and they have four children – Eric, Thomas, Terrance and Tamilee. That marriage ended in divorce and then Velma married Albert Foy. She and Albert have one daughter, Gaylene. Velma and Albert live in Chilliwack, BC.

DELPHINE (JOHNSON) SHEWFELT

Remembering the quiet little town before the oil boom. Buying groceries at Block's Store with my mom when I was just tall enough to see over the counter. Across from the store was Peter and Anna Anderson's house. I remember my mom and dad visiting at that house. Helmer Ramstad had a second hand store east side of the Anderson's house, and to the west stood the Anglican Church and just behind the church, Miss Cording (the nurse) lived in a small house. I remember her house. It was very small, and I got my immunization needles there before I went to school. Miss. Cording was very nice and always had a smile. I remember the Getzinger store with the wooden steps and across from this store was the school. This is my reflection of Drayton Valley before the oil boom.

Donna Beckett – Delphine Johnson

I remember my brother Alfred was cutting wood and cut his ankle open with the axe. My mom wrapped his ankle with white cloth and they both

left running to town to Miss. Cording's house. Brother Garry and I stayed at home. Alfred was taken from Drayton Valley to Entwistle where the nearest doctor was and then taken to an Edmonton hospital.

I have fond memories of growing up with family and friends close by: aunts, uncles, grandmas, grandpas and always having cousins to play with and be with at school. I felt very secure living in this community. The new kids that moved to town would sometimes call us dumb farmers. It didn't bother me because I was proud we were farmers.

Front L-R, Iona Tucker, Arlene Kelly, Delphine Johnson, Donna Beckett, Tommy Tucker, Myrtle Johnson, Back L-R, Helen Johnson, ?, Vallie Urchyshyn holding Elaine Johnson, and Darleen Tucker

I especially remember Lyle and Rachel Beckett, who lived on the farm just west of us. I visited their place often to play with Donna and she would come over to my place, only about ½ mile walk away. Donna and I also walked to school together. In January 1961, Elaine and I started riding the bus to school. Albert Hodgson was the driver.

By the time I started school, in September 1955, trailers were being moved into town for the people to live in. There was more traffic, and the school had to be enlarged. By 1956, you could already see the change the oil boom had brought with it.

I am proud to have been part of the roots of Drayton Valley history, knowing my grandparents and parents homesteaded the land next to the town limits. Their hard work has made that land livable for the people to enjoy today.

ANTON, WILLY AND SEVER SJERDAL

Submitted by Rachael Sjerdal Anderson

Anton and Willy Sjerdal came to Canada from North Dakota and each took a homestead, Anton in Rocky Rapids (now owned by Manuel Schultz). Willy took one east of Drayton Valley close to the banks of the Saskatchewan River. In 1917, Sever Sjerdal immigrated with part of his family to Rocky Rapids and Drayton Valley where they all lived on the two homesteads.

Sever and Julia Sjerdal had a family of ten. Three of them didn't come to Canada. A son, Edwin, died in the First World War, one daughter died very young. The oldest daughter, Christine, married and stayed in Belfield. Sever and Julia Sjerdal's family were Ludwig, Christine, Anton, Juline, Willy, Clara, Edwin, Agnes and Clarence.

There were many hardships in trying to make a living and everyone worked at raising a garden and whatever could be raised on a farm.

Juline was already married to Alfred Fuglie when they came over and had two small children. They took a homestead just west of the present site of the airport at Rocky Rapids.

In March of 1920, Ludwig came to Canada from Aberdeen, Washington, U.S.A., after his wife, Lula, passed away during the flu epidemic in 1919. He brought his four young children with him and they moved in with the other Sjerdals. The children were Leroy, Rachael, Lois and Esther, ranging in age from five years old to thirteen months. It was a great struggle for Ludwig, but he got a homestead just north of the one Anton had. He built a log house and moved his family there. Ludwig's sisters, Agnes and Clara and his mother, Julia, helped care for his family. Ludwig's homestead is now part of Manuel Schultz's ranch.

Willy worked around Camrose, where he met his bride, Alma Bjuland. He married her in November of 1920. They also moved to the homestead where they had five children, Edna, Arvid, Ellen and Albert. Harland died in infancy.

The year 1923 was a happy one for Agnes Sjerdal when Alvin Ramstead took her for his bride. (Alvin and Helmer were brothers.) They moved to Whitecourt to work in a saw mill. Their only child, June, was born there. When June was two years old, her father was killed in a saw mill accident. While they lived in Whitecourt, Rachael Sjerdal went to live with Agnes and Alvin and attended school there.

After Alvin was killed, Agnes moved back to live with her parents. Mrs. Sjerdal passed away in 1932 and her husband in 1937. Agnes and her father moved from the homestead to Drayton Valley in 1933, where they lived in a small shack until the following year, when their house was built. Agnes married Elroy Plotts in 1936. Two children were born of the union, Clint and Barbara.

Clara Sjerdal married Francis Harrison. First they moved to Whitecourt and then to California. They had three children. Clarence married Martha Anderson in 1925. They have no children. After they got married they farmed for a while. Then they started following the sawmills. First they worked for Fero's, west of Drayton Valley and then at Buck Creek, for the Hystads. In 1942, they moved to Grande Prairie, where they are living now.

Carl Anderson married Rachael Sjerdal in 1935. They lived on Carl's farm, east of Drayton Valley, until March of 1936, when they moved to Willy Sjerdal's farm at Rocky Rapids. They had two sons, Albert and Arnold.

Lois married Edwin Olney in 1936. He worked in the lumber industry around Drayton Valley and later moved to Slave Lake. Five children were born of that union. Esther married Leslie Davidson. They lived on a farm at Whitby and raised a family of nine children. Leroy married Edith Goky in 1962. They had no family. June Ramstead married Dave Frieson from Manitoba and moved to Dawson Creek, where they raised six children.

The first confirmation service of the district was held in the Norman Hall at Rocky Rapids, where Rachael and Lois became members of the Lutheran Church. Rev. Raduenz from Tomahawk was pastor at that time.

WILF & LYLA SLENO

Written by Lyla (McIntosh) Sleno

I was born August 14th 1926 at High River, Alberta. I am the only daughter of Margaret Louisa Watrin and George Richard McIntosh. Both were pioneer families of the Tongue Creek district, NW of High River. My dad was a world famous cowboy; having won the Bareback Championship of Canada in 1936 and several other championships in the early 1930's throughout Canada and the United States. He was with the very first rodeo to sail to England in 1934 and put on a performance before the King and Queen. This was quite an undertaking, as they had to take everything with them, rodeo stock and all. During his career dad won money, gold watches, silver spurs, saddles etc.

My mother was one of 18 children born to Joseph and Lucinda Watrin, and sister of the well-known Watrin brothers of rodeo fame. Mother was a cowgirl back in the early 20's and competed in many small rodeos in Southern Alberta.

As a young girl I (Lyla) lived on the McIntosh family homestead along the Tongue Creek. Some of my happiest times were running barefoot (free as a bird and wild as a young deer) along the banks of the Tongue Creek; picking wild flowers (crocus and

Front Row – Lyla and Wilf Sleno. Back Row – Richard, Dave, Janet, Dan and Roger

daisies), saskatoons, choke cherries and wild raspberries, climbing the hills and the "Big Rocks" overlooking the homestead. I attended the Highwood School some six miles SW of the farm and rode bareback on a horse called "Buck". I later attended school in Calgary before moving to Turner Valley where I finished my education at Turner Valley High, (which is now the Turner Valley Golf and Country Club).

My husband, Wilfrid Edward Sleno, was born in Sandstone, Alberta October 12th, 1916 approximately four miles west of Okotoks, Alberta. His parents were Marguerite Eva Goettler and Anthony Sylvester Sleno, both of Petrolia, Ontario. Wilf received most of his education in a country school near Sandstone and later attended high school in Okotoks. Sometimes he rode his pony, but most often he walked the four miles down the railroad tracks to school in Okotoks, and home again at night. In 1942, Wilf enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and took most of his training in Trenton, Ontario before being stationed in Gander Bay, Newfoundland. In January 1944 we were married in St. Michael's Catholic Church in Black Diamond, Alberta, when Wilf was home on leave. Wilf had worked for Royalite Oil Company in the Turner Valley area before the war and when he returned he resumed his former job. After a few years things were slowing down in the Turner Valley Oilfield and when the opportunity arose to venture to a new oilfield and more permanent work, Wilf accepted.

On April 16,1956 Wilf and I along with our children, Rick (9), David (8), Danny (5), and Janet (1½) years arrived in Drayton Valley. Pembina Pipeline hired Wilf and we haven't looked back. An amusing incident occurred when we were bringing our furniture and belongings to Drayton Valley. The enam-

eled "chamber pail" fell off our load onto Highway 2 North. Wilf stopped and walked back to retrieve the dented and cracked bucket, much to the amusement of passing motorists. We used it for many years following and always had a good laugh over it all. Some things stick out in my memory such as coming across the North Saskatchewan River on the ferry, pulling a trailer with most everything we owned in this world (scary stuff.). We rented a lot in the Dodson Trailer Court and moved into an 8x24 foot house trailer with a lean-to. What a change from the large six room home we had recently left in Turner Valley. But we were young and together and somehow nothing else mattered; not even the Drayton Valley "Mud" or the hauling of all our water from a public pump. We didn't have a refrigerator (no power), so Wilf dug a hole in the ground and put in a large crock with a lid in order to keep fresh milk, butter, eggs, etc. This worked fine until one of the children dropped the glass bottle of milk and broke the bottom out of the crock. Some of our neighbours in the Dodson Trailer court were the Vanderleest, Anderson, Disney, Stocking, and Hale families.

One day while Wilf was driving to work; he saw an old unpainted two-story house in the trees, across highway 22. (Where the Nelson Brothers now have their business) On inquiring as to who owned the land, we were told it was the old Guze homestead. And yes ... You guessed it! We bought the house, barn and five acres from Otto and Eileen Guze. We had no electricity for awhile, but how happy we were to get out of that crowded trailer and find our "little piece of heaven" in which to raise our family. We named it "Bounti Birch Acres", because of the great number of birch trees on the property. In July of 1962 we purchased a quarter section of land in the Easyford district from Mr. Rory McRae. It was the N.E. 9-50-8-W5 but we never lived on it.

Our youngest son Roger was born July 1959 at the old Drayton Valley Hospital. (Where the Lezure Lea is now situated) Now our family was complete and " life was great". We had our little piece of land, and the town was just a "stones throw" away. The children had good schools to attend and we had a first class hospital with excellent doctors. I must take a moment here to tell you how I felt about doctor Maclure. He not only brought our Roger into the world, but he was one of the most kind and considerate gentlemen I have ever met. And Oh! So talented. He was a wonderful human being and it was a pleasure knowing him. Eventually, we bought a house from Mobil Oil located north of Violet Grove, and had it moved to our acreage near town. We lived here until Wilf retired in 1981 after working some 40 years in the oil industry. We later moved into town to the Aspenview area, where we still reside.

Wilf loves the game of Horseshoe and pitches everyday (weather permitting). He is a lifetime member of the Alberta Horseshoe Pitchers Association (A.H.P.A) and attends as many tournaments as possible. He has won many trophies and medals throughout the years. These include winning 2 gold medals at the Senior Summer Games and silver several times as well. He played horseshoe with his dad when he was a young lad of six. My great love is music. I have broad tastes, which range from country to classical. I also enjoy poetry. I have sung at many functions throughout the years such as Christmas cantata, weddings, and funerals.

Our children and their families are scattered throughout Alberta, but not too far that we cannot visit often. Our oldest son Richard was born in High River, Alberta in 1946. He and his wife Terry live on an acreage near Red Deer. Terry works as medical records' librarian in Olds, Alberta, Richard has his own business called E&I Consulting Services Ltd. Their oldest son Trevor is a mechanical engineer and works for B.P. Company in Edmonton. He looks after capital projects and travels to Montreal to look at new programs for cost accounting etc. Middle son Jeff is enrolled at the U of A (3d year) and taking biological environment studies. Their youngest son Darrell is attending college in Red Deer and taking criminology, in hopes of furthering a career in the R.C.M.P.

Our second son David was born in Turner Valley, Alberta in 1948. He and his wife Debbie live on an acreage near Rocky Mountain House. David also has his own business ("Pine Hills" Oilfield Services Ltd.) and Debbie works for Collision and Repairs in town. They have two girls and one boy. Tienne, the oldest, is married and living in Edmonton with a son Kyle. Christopher and Dana, who live at home, are attending primary school in Rocky Mountain House.

Our third son Dan was born in Turner Valley in 1951. Dan lives in Drayton Valley and works for Pembina Pipeline as his father did. He has one daughter Amanda (who incidentally loves to sing and has a beautiful voice) and two sons Matt and Craig. Matt is presently living in Bangkok, Thailand and teaching English to Thai students. He loves to travel and last year spent several months in Japan learning their language and culture. Craig attends school in Drayton Valley and lives with his father.

Our only daughter Janet was born in Turner Valley in 1954. She is married to Lee Getzinger and they live on Muriel Lake, near Bonnyville. Lee is a consultant for Imperial Oil in Cold Lake. They have

a son Shawn and a daughter, Angela. Shawn is attending Lakeland College in Lloydminster and is taking advanced computer technology. Angela is cashier in an Edmonton Superstore. She is an accomplished actress and does modeling on the side.

Our youngest son Roger works as an electrician at the Weyerhaeuser mill in Drayton Valley. He and his wife Coreen have three children and they live on an acreage north of town. Their children are Jennifer, Lyla (my namesake) and Brent. All in all we have fifteen precious grandchildren and one great-grandson, and I presume many more to follow. Our years in Drayton Valley, raising our family, have been happy and content. All of our five children attended school here.

Since first writing this history, grandson Shawn is now working for the Llydminster Alberta School District as their Computer Technologist. Two other grandsons Trevor and Jeff married in 1998 and live and work in Edmonton. Also, great-grandchildren now number nine. A couple of years ago I had both knees replaced and now claim to be a "bionic woman" and able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. Wilf and I recently celebrated our 57th wedding anniversary. In conclusion I would like to add a short poem by Robert Browning, which sums up how I feel.

The Years at the Spring
And Days at the morn
Mornings at seven
The hillsides dew-pearle
The larks on the wing
The snails on the thorn
God's in His Heaven
All's right with the World

DONNIE AND KEN SMITH

Submitted by Donnie Smith

Ken and Donnie Smith lived in Drayton Valley and area from 1954 to 1964. We remember lots of good times and some sad times: Oil Wives' Talent Nights, the opening of the hotel in 1955, the curling rink, scout hall, swimming pool, hockey rink, and the busy downtown centre. Who can forget waiting in line at the AGT office to make a phone call. In those days the few available phone lines were reserved for Oil Company use in the morning. Especially we remember "The Mud". Trips to Edmonton were lengthy and usually a stop over at the Twig Inn was necessary. Before a hospital was built there were many hair raising rides to Edmonton hospitals with various injuries and expectant mothers. We all helped each other in any way we could. True and lasting friendships were made in Drayton Valley and we have many fond memories of our years there. We now live in Kelowna, B.C., along with our children Larry, Barry, Barbara, their spouses and our nine grandchildren.

Donnie and Ken Smith

Front: Donnie and Ken Smith, L to R, Larry and Dorothy Smith, Barry, Leslie and Jamie Smith, Barbara and Ivor Marshall

JAMES AND EMILY SMITH

Submitted by Oliver Smith

The Smith family came west from Ontario in 1924. They spent the first winter in Ponoka where father worked on the railroad. In 1925, they filed on the homestead quarter east of Rocky Rapids. The family at that time consisted of Father, Mother, Helen (5), Charity (4), and Garnet (2). Emerson, Eva and Oliver came later in 29, 33, and 34 respectively.

The last picture taken before the James Smith family left for Ontario

The house on the homestead was a 12' x 24' log cabin with slanted roof. The high side was toward the prevailing west winds. One evening, in March, after the children were in bed, the roof suddenly lifted from its place and fell to the ground several yards away. Helen (then 6) woke up and declared "I see stars". Aunt Dorthea Alport and baby Fern were with us at the time. One board with an exposed nail fell across where the baby lay, but no harm was done. The family gathered up what they could carry and walked ¾ of a mile across the coulee to the Combs' family, who somehow managed to put up six extra people. Father was away logging at the time, but some neighbors helped to put the roof back on.

Clothing was often inadequate in those early days and patches upon patches were not uncommon. Mother's knitting needles and sewing machine were kept busy whenever other more urgent needs allowed. She even learned to knit socks and mitts with wool pulled from the fleece and shaped with the fingers, since she had no spinning wheel to make proper yarn.

One of the heartbreaking experiences of the thirties was having the price of hogs drop so low that it wouldn't pay the freight to take them to market. The homestead was surrendered to the mortgage holder. The place had been mortgaged earlier to buy groceries and other necessities. Grandma Alport had passed away not long before. Mother's share was

James and Emily Smith

Oliver Smith, Emerson, Garnet, Charity, Helen, Emily, James

about $300. With that they were able to buy the Johnson homestead from Uncle Harl and Aunt Mary, who had moved back to Michigan. So when I (Oliver) was about 3 years old, we moved west of Rocky Rapids to NW¼ 5-50-7. By this time, the three oldest children had gone to Edmonton to make their own way, even though they were still in their teens. From 1937 on, the three youngest children walked a mile and a half to Laurel School. We had it good. I remember the Frees and the Sakovichs had to walk three miles. Eva, at age eleven, died of Meningitis in 1943, but Emerson and I eventually made it through grade nine, high school in Drayton

Valley and elsewhere, and on to University and College respectively.

The Smith grand-daughters, L to R, Rhea, Heather, Shirley, Carman, Wendy, Iris, Donna, Laurel

Emerson was killed in a car crash in BC in 1963. Charity married John Bootsma and had two daughters. Helen married Roger Pangh and had three girls and a boy. Garnet married Sylvenne Pete and moved to Wisconsin where they raised three daughters. Oliver married Ann Stoesz and had one daughter. Ann and I and our brother-in-law Roger are the only ones of our generation left in Alberta as of February 2001.

Laurel School days have left many interesting memories – the swimming holes in the creek, the ball diamond on the slope, the tall spruce tree in the corner of the yard where both Emerson and I climbed as high as we dared and tied on a rag just to show off, the game we invented when we tired of the regular ones, the cold days when the oil drum heater couldn't keep up and we all sat around the stove as the teacher read to us, and how about the time that Don C. Daniel G. and I used Halloween as an excuse to 'vandalize' the school house (no serious damage done, but school was cancelled for a day to clean up).

L to R, Oliver, Eva, and Emerson Smith

Smith homestead

The family has scattered or gone on. There are none of us left in the area now, but it will always be home. Thanks for the memories.

James and Emily Smith 60th Wedding Anniversary

ABE AND TILLY SMITHINSKY

Submitted by Lil Smithinsky

Born in Bucharest, Romania, in October 1900, Abe Smithinsky came to Canada with his father Mike. They settled first in Edmonton. Then Abe came to Violet Grove in 1930 and homesteaded on the NW 13-48-8 W5. He broke the land with one horse and one ox. He built a log house and made rail fences. In 1932, Abe married Tilly Cybucka. Tilly was born April, 1908, in Libnow, Poland. She came to Edmonton where she worked as a domestic until she came to Violet Grove with Abe. They bought a team of horses and some cattle. Tilly planted a garden and raised chickens, ducks and geese.

February, 1934, Harold was born. George was born July of 1940. Tilly and Abe broke more land and acquired more cattle. In 1949, they got a grazing lease in Blue Rapids. In September 1950 Abe died.

Harold farmed the homestead and tended the cattle on the lease. June, 1955 he married Lillian Huseby and we lived at Blue Rapids. Pauline was born May, 1959. Joyce was born September, 1961.

In September, 1965, George married Petra Vanderleest and built a house on the homestead. October 1965, we moved to SW 17-48-8 W5. The girls went to school in Drayton Valley.

Tilly died in September of 1971.

Harold had several off-farm jobs, including 22 years as grader operator for the County of Parkland and M.D. of Brazeau. Now he raises Angus cattle.

Pauline married Ian Dunn in August of 1985. They have one daughter, Lindsey, born December, 1989. Pauline and Ian own and operate Dunn-Right Communications Inc. in Drayton Valley. They live in a house they built on an acreage they bought from us.

Joyce married Dave Mathers in August, 1986. Their daughter, Jordana, was born August, 1990. They live in Calgary where Dave works for Texaco. Joyce is secretary at Willow Park, where Jordana goes to school.

George and Petra had three boys. James was born June, 1966, and married Nikki Fischer in September, 1994. James works for Pembina Pipe. Nikki owns and operates Indigo Kennels. They live two miles from Petra. Steve was born December, 1968. He graduated as a Petroleum Engineer from the U of A in Edmonton. He married Andrea Noel, a school teacher from Ohio in June, 1995, in Las Vegas. They have two daughters – Marissa born April, 1997, Brynn born April, 1999. They live in Calgary. David was born March, 1971. He farms with his mother and works for the M.D. of Brazeau. David married Dorthea "Peck" Wood June, 1998. They live in a trailer on Petra's farm.

George died in May, 1991.

GERALD & GWEN SOLOMON

Both Gerald and Gwen were raised in the Drayton Valley area and have seen the changes and growth of Drayton Valley since the oil has come.

Gwen (Davidson) Solomon was born in Whitecourt and raised in the Rocky Rapids area. Her grandparents were early homesteaders in Rocky Rapids. Gwen has two other brothers, one older and one younger. She attended school in Rocky Rapids and Drayton Valley. Gwen worked at the Rocky Rapids store and later on at the Hudson Bay Co. Once Gwen had children, she stayed at home to be with them. Currently Gwen is a member of the Royal Purple, belongs to the Life Support Society, is the coordinator for Heart & Stroke Foundation, and is the envelope secretary for her church. Some of her hobbies include crocheting, bowling, and other crafts.

Gerald was born in Tomahawk, and raised in Round Valley (just north of DV). He is the second youngest of seven children, four brothers and two sisters. Gerald attended school in Round Valley, Drayton Valley, and Tomahawk. Gerry has worked in the oil industry since 1962, and is now working as a consultant. Currently Gerald is a member of the Elks, and his hobbies include curling, baseball and other outdoor activities.

On Sept 5, 1964, Gerald and Gwen were married and made their home in Drayton Valley. They raised two children, David and Connie, and now have three grandchildren. Their favorite past time is spending time with their family.

David enjoys volleyball, curling and other outdoor activities. He has worked in the oil industry for

the last 14 years, and is currently Field Superintendent for Bonus Well Servicing. David married Kelly Sullivan on July 10, 1993, and they now have two children of their own, Keiara and Jayden.

Connie went to NAIT after high school, and completed her Accounting diploma in Business Administration. Her hobbies include skiing, baseball and other outdoor activities. She has worked for the Inland Group of companies in Edmonton for the past ten years, and is currently the Consolidation Accountant for their Head Office. Connie married Rick Baerg on Aug. 31, 1996 and they now have one child of their own, Carlin.

GEORGE AND JEANNINE SPRAGUE

Written by George Sprague

In the spring of 1953 there was a mass movement of people to the Drayton Valley area following the discovery of oil by Mobil Oil then called Socony Vacuum, and later the name was changed to Mobil Oil.

Jeannie Sprague with children at the Berrymoor ferry crossing

Having spent all my working years in the oil patch from Turner Valley on there was not much otherwise to chose from, so it only followed to join the bunch of people needing a job and moving to Drayton Valley with my wife Jeannine and our three children Douglas, Connie and Deborah who, at the time, were one, three and five.

Conditions were very rugged to say the least. Our first job with Mobil was clearing the bush by hand and axe for the construction of the Mobil office and service area.

Development of the area was very intensive in drilling and production. I was in the production section but interacted with the drilling people a lot. There were a lot of very fine people involved in development and Mobil Oil was a very good organization to be with. There were some problems with landowners but, in my opinion, all were treated with dignity and respect.

In 1957, my family and I were moved to Duhamel. I became ill and here again Mobil Oil was very supportive. Another move to Calgary for a year and then back to Drayton Valley. In this time frame I gained my Aircraft Engineer license. In 1969, we moved to Calgary where I was transferred to the Aviation Department.

When we left Drayton, Douglas stayed and completed his Electrician coarse while working for Terry Mulgrew. Douglas married Verna Hodgson, Albert and Olive Hodgson's daughter. The Hodgson's moved to Drayton about the same time we did. Douglas and Verna were married in the little Anglican Church which was and still is a historic land mark in Drayton. Douglas worked in the electrical field in Leduc, Terrace, B.C., Hinton, and then went back to Drayton where he now has the Ford Dealership.

Connie moved from Calgary area to Mackenzie, B.C. and from there to Westbank where she is now. She is an Investor's Assistant with one of the major Investment firms in Kelowna. Deborah is in Edmonton where she works two jobs. She is a Legal Secretary for an Edmonton law office and bookkeeper for her husband's heating business, Atrex Heating Controls Ltd.

In 1980, my wife and I moved to Westbank, B.C. where we still reside. We do make trips back to Drayton to see our son and family, and see all the changes.

ALEXANDER WILLIAM (ALEC) AND ELIZABETH ANN STARLING NEE (HOPKINS)

Alec Starling was born in Skebgy, England, July 9, 1893. He was the oldest of eight children born to Alexander William Sr. and Mary Matilda (nee Powell) Starling.

Elizabeth Ann Starling (nee Hopkins) was born on April 30, 1895 at Pemgan, Wales. She was one of a family of seven children.

Alec and Elizabeth were married in June of 1915. They established a home in Bargoed, Gelligoer, County of Galmorgan, Wales. Their children David Arthur, Hilda Mary, and Alexander William III were born in Bargoed.

It was decided they would emigrate to Canada. Many of their furnishings were sold to help supply money for their new adventure. Alec came first travelling with his father and brothers Joe, Jack and Bert in 1920. A younger brother Wilfred, fifteen at the time, probably came with their Mother and sisters Francis and Bertha. It is a point of interest to note

that Joe Starling, brother to Alec first homesteaded on the quarter now developed into Aspenview – NE 9-49-7. Nostalgia would become obvious in Joe Starling as an old man in his late eighties or early nineties when he would return to Drayton Valley from his home in Vancouver and reminisce about those days so long ago. He would inquire about homesteaders such as Ole Topstead, or Eric Turner. Often the reply would have to be that they had passed on. Also another point of interest was Alec's father homesteaded on the quarter just directly south of Alec. His younger brother Wilfred would tell of his experiences of arriving by train as a teenager to Gainford, travelling by horse and wagon to Drayton Valley and sleeping under the stars at night, en route.

Elizabeth and their three young children, Dave, Hilda and Alec Jr., would come to Drayton Valley about one and a half years later.

A homestead was taken on the SW 15-49-7 W5th, one mile east of the present Townsite of Drayton Valley.

Having worked in the coalmines in Wales from a tender age of thirteen, Alec was drawn to the Coal Branch of Mountain Park and Luscar to find employment. A son, Rosser James, was born in Luscar on October 19, 1923.

Over the years added to this family and born in Drayton Valley, were John Edward (Ed), Meagan McGreta, Eunice Evelyn, William John (Jack) and Dylis Elsie.

The family lived for a time in Mountain Park. The high altitude was difficult for Elizabeth to contend with, and she and the children moved back to the farm. Alec returned at planting and harvest time to help the family. He finally left the mines after World War II.

Tragedy struck the family on February 28, 1930. While living in Drayton Valley, daughter Meagan passed away, a result of pneumonia. A casket was made by Mr. Dick Francis. Mrs. Davis supplied a piece of satin that she had to line the casket. This small community of people pulled together and helped Alec and Elizabeth lay their young daughter to rest in the cemetery.

Like many other families of the area, Alec and Elizabeth carved out a living on their farm. They grew oats, barley, wheat and hay. Sheep were always a large part of their livelihood, as well as cattle, pigs and chickens. Often, in the winter, Alec worked in the lumber camps.

Dave, the oldest son of Alec and Elizabeth, married Olive McKenney and to them was born a daughter, Florence June. On May 1, 1943, the family was once again faced with a tragedy when Olive died, the result of a heart attack. Eventually, Florence came to make her home with her grandparents, Elizabeth and Alec, and to become like a sibling to Eunice, Jack and Dylis, the children still living at home at that time.

In October of 1964, Alec and Elizabeth went back to Wales for a years holiday, visiting family and friends.

Elizabeth passed away December 1, 1969. Alec passed away May 14, 1980. At the time of his death there were 28 grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren. Dave, Alec and Ross each served in the Armed Forces during World War II.

Dave took up the carpentry trade and lived in Edmonton with wife Sophie. They had a daughter Betty. After the death of Sophie, Dave returned to Drayton Valley and eventually married Alice Brisebois. The couple were able to enjoy travel and retirement before Dave passed away on June 21, 1993.

Hilda worked in Edmonton and was trained as a cook. She married Fred Critchley. Fred and Hilda had two children, Aronald and Diane. Hilda and Fred have both passed away and are buried in Edmonton.

Alex (Bill) Starling made his home in Brandon, Manitoba where he married Millie Matwick. They had three children, Elizabeth, Bill Jr. and Diane. Bill worked for the CPR Railroad and passed away in 1979.

Ross found his employment with the CNR Railroad in Edmonton. He married Lil Plaisner and they have four grown children Ron, Elaine, Janice and Eunice. Ross is retired and lives in Edmonton.

Edward was also employed with CNR Railway in Edmonton. He and his wife Anne (Yasinchuk) had five children Vern, Sharon, Marilyn, Heather and Loretta. Ed passed away on October 28, 1989, and is buried in Edmonton.

Eunice went off to work in Edmonton. She returned to the area and married Lloyd Swap. Lloyd and Eunice made their home on a farm in Rocky Rapids. To them were born Charlie, Gary, David and Jacqualine. Eunice and Lloyd still live in their home in Rocky Rapids and are able to enjoy retirement and their eleven grandchildren.

Jack worked for a major oil company. He and his wife Betty (Whyte) had three children David, Maureen and Wayne. Jack and Betty live on the family farm and Jack is presently a Councillor for the M.D. of Brazeau 77.

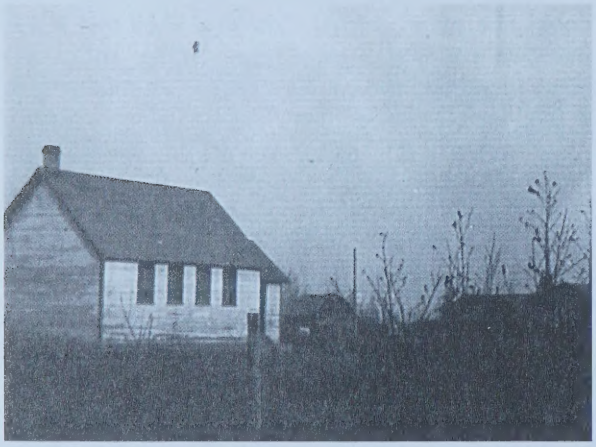
Dylis also went off to Edmonton to work and returned to marry Henry Romanchuk. Hank and Dylis made their home on the Romanchuk family farm. To them was born Dorothy, Don, Doug, Dan

and Dale. Henry passed away in 1979 and Dylis continued to look after the farm with her teenage sons. Dylis still lives in Rocky Rapids.

Florence worked in Drayton Valley before marrying Dalton Brown. They lost their first born daughter Brenda. Eventually they made their home on a farm in the Easyford area. Florence and Dalton had four more children, Jeanette, Brian, Janice and Penny. After Dalton's death in 1990, Florence continued to live in the home she and Dalton had established.

GLADYS STEPHENS

I taught in the Eldorado School from July 3, 1929, to December 18, 1929. I was just fresh out of Normal School and only 18 years old. I followed a Miss Haynes who taught in the spring of 1929 until the end of June. At that time school was closed in December and did not open again until March or April.



Eldorado school, 1929

Eldorado School was a small white building heated by a big wood burning pot-bellied stove not too efficiently in the winter. When I was there in 1929, Drayton Valley consisted of a crossroad with the school on one corner, William Drake's post office and store across the road, a Church of God building kitty-corner from the school and an empty lot where two years later a store was built. (years later the Seniors Drop in Centre).

Roads were very poor – muddy and full of holes, as I found out when I met Mr. Drake at Robinson's store in Entwistle for my trip to the district. I had to hold onto the door handle to keep from bumping my head on the roof of his truck. No wonder people didn't leave Drayton Valley very often.

The next day was July 1st, the scene of a community picnic, where I met everyone and had a great time. School started on July 3rd. I had 24 pupils in

Eldorado school. First snow September 21, 1929 – pupils and snowman

Gladys Stepheno and Eva Dodson by the North Saskatchewan River

seven grades. I remember most of their names – Danny Bills, Leslie, Evelyn and May Tucker, John and Albert Drake, Elizabeth, Lenora and Ruth Jonzon, Ruth and Mildred Dodson, Arvet Erickson, Andrew, Robert and Gertrude Johnson, Margaret and May Kynoch, Alex, David and Hilda Starling, Conrad Topstad, Ralph Wilkander and his two sisters (?). I may have missed somebody. Elizabeth and Lenora Jonzon were the janitors. There was a water pump in the yard.

At times in the summer it was very hot. In the fall, we had a Halloween party and finished up the year with a Christmas Concert. Our music, I remem-

Chamberlain's visiting Bennett's

ber, was a small gramophone and records (mine). The young people of the district put on a play and I enjoyed my six months there. For recreation, the young people of the district attended dances at the school and at Rocky Rapids on Friday nights. Transportation was by team and democrat or when the roads were dry, by Jonzon's car. Some of them I remember were Winnie and Johnny Bills, Eric and Swanny Jonzon, Carl Anderson, Eldon Bennett.

Chamberlain's

I got to my home at Styal only twice. For Thanksgiving by catching a ride with a hunter going to Entwistle, and once by car on a Sunday.

I boarded with Aaron and Lula Bennett, who had a farm a mile south of the school (where the Auction Market now is). He was a carpenter by trade. I walked to school every day. Lula was like a mother to me. I still remember the good times we had together. After I left, we corresponded for many years.

Mrs. Chamberlain, Miss Stephens, Mrs. Lula Bennett at Bennett's

The day after the Christmas Concert, Lula Bennett and I caught a ride with Floyd Combs to Entwistle on his sleigh. He hauled mail and groceries. It was very cold. Then Lula and I caught the train to Edmonton. She was going to Oklahoma to visit her relatives for Christmas. Then I came back on the train the same day.

After December, the school was closed until the next spring. I was fortunate enough to get the position of Primary Teacher at Evansburg, grades one to four. I never again taught in a rural school. I have fond memories of Drayton Valley and Eldorado School.

BOB & BELL STEWART

By Velma Pratt (nee Stewart)

Through facts, stories and fond memories, the following is the life and times of some of my ancestors, but most of all my parents, Bob and Bell Stewart and family, of Easyford, Alberta.

My great grandfather on my dad's side, Thomas Henderson, was born in North Oxford, Ontario in 1846. His parents, William Henderson and Frances Martin, came to Ontario from Newcastle on the

Arnold Stewart, Russel, Kathleen Bowes, Arthur. Note the homemade hockey stick

Tyne, England. My great grandmother, Margaret Peggy, was born in 1840 in Scarborough, Ontario, of Scottish parents, Robert Oliver and Janet Elliott. The Oliver family later moved to North Oxford. It was there that Thomas Henderson and Margaret Oliver were married in 1866. My grandmother, Olive Ada Henderson, was born in Ontario in 1867. After seven years (in 1873) Thomas and Margaret Henderson left Ontario and journeyed west going via the Union Pacific Railway to San Francisco and then by boat to North Vancouver, BC. They resided at Maple Ridge near the Fraser River, had a small farm, a few cattle and did sawmill work for seven years. The magnet, which led them to make the trip to Fort Edmonton in 1880, crossing the Rocky Mountains by walking and packhorse, was that gold could be mined in the North Saskatchewan River. They went from New Westminster to Yale, up the Fraser by boat, Yale to Kamloops by homemade wagon and harness. The rest of the trip was made by packhorse. This caravan consisted of father, mother and six children (aged 8 months to 13 years old).

Bob and Bill Stewarts homestead house at Easyford

My grandmother was the oldest at thirteen years of age. Small tots stood and sat in gunnysacks slung from the saddle horn. Sacks were stuffed with moss to help cushion the bumps and bangs against trees and brush. There were also three single men traveling with the family. The group traveled the survey trail that had been cut out six or seven years before for the Trunk Railway that went through the Yellowhead Pass. They had many hardships and narrow escapes along the way. Lots of stories to tell and the arduous journey was made in six weeks. During their travels, they met Thomas Hay Stewart (born 1855) by chance. He had traveled from Lake Simcoe, Ontario to Winnipeg by train. In those days, that was as far as the rail went. He had loaded his bedroll and belongings on a donkey and was headed west to Vancouver, BC. That's when he met up with the Hendersons, in Kamloops, and ended up coming to Fort Edmonton with them instead. It was late fall when they arrived in St. Albert. The Sisters at the mission took them in and supplied them with food and clothing. They filed on homesteads in Northeast Edmonton and worked at the Fort. Being carpenters, they built houses on both sides of Fraser St. (about 98th Street). They were unable to grow crops on that homestead, so the group filed for new homesteads south of Edmonton in the Rabbit Hill area. Again, houses, barns and outbuildings had to be built. My grandparents - Thomas Hay Stewart and Olive Ada Henderson were married in 1886.

Truck and tractor put on rails to haul logs. L-R, Russell, Bob and Arnold Stewart

Bob Stewart was born in Edmonton in a house, about where City Hall now stands (April 14, 1888). Bell Stewart (nee Millar) was born in Paisley, Scotland (1889). Bell came with her parents to Winnipeg, Manitoba at the age of two years, James (born 1864) and Margaret Millar (nee Turner) was born in 1868. Bell spent her younger years there and came west as a young lady to Strathcona, NWT.

Robert Oliver Stewart and Annabella Ralston Millar were married in 1909 and had a family of eight. Olive died as an infant Arnold married Sophie

Ford truck made into a tractor. Arnold Stewart, Vernon Oscar, Art Stewart, Allan Oscar

Vowk. Helen married Milow Bowes. Audrey married Dan Baslee. Russell married Eunice Oscar. Arthur married Emma Swap. Norma married Harmy Bruins. Velma married Roy Pratt.

Easyford Highway! Arthur and Emma Stewart

They first resided in Rabbit Hill with Dad's parents, then took up a homestead across the N. Sask. River at Woodbend. Later they moved to Whitecourt, Alberta, working at logging and in the sawmills. This would be around 1920. Bob, Bell and family moved back to Woodbend in 1928, then in 1932 moved into Edmonton, hoping to find work. They tried it out for about two years, but work was scarce at that time. Odd jobs could be found like cutting wood, brushing and grubbing out stumps and shoveling snow. They cut stove wood and for a while it sold really well around the city. Bob had a 1914 car that an uncle had given him. After repairs had been done on the car, and a box built on the back to haul wood, it was all for nothing since wood was being handed out for free to all of those on relief. This also included our family.

I believe it was in 1930 when the family, who was currently living at Woodbend, decided to file for homesteads at Easyford, Alberta. Dad filed on NE ¼, 50-9 W5M. Later on, Mom filed on the quarter across the road from Dad's, NW of Twp 13 Range 50, W5M. At one time there were eight quarters filed on in our family, but only three were kept and proved on. Arnold's wife, Sophie, still has the land Arnold filed on. Mom and Dad's were sold after dad passed away in 1984. In 1960, Mom passed away. They are both buried in Surrey, BC.

Dad worked at a variety of jobs, besides homesteading, farming, millwork, logging, forestry, surveyor. He also worked on the building of the High Level Bridge and the Parliament Buildings. He was also in the 19th Alberta Dragoons that trained in Calgary on the Sarcee Reserve and at the Edmonton camp, west of the Hudson Bay Fort, for several weeks each year. Bob went to Quebec in 1908 for the Tricentennial (Tercentennery) Celebration in July. A very special event for Canada, even the Prince was there. Men and special horses were chosen from across Canada to take part in the celebration. The men and horses were sent to the celebration by special trains for the event.

After we moved to Easyford in 1934, besides farming, Dad worked as Road Councillor and foreman, fire warden, game warden and he also did the bookkeeping for the sawmill and lumber camp, which he and his sons had started. They logged and sawed at several locations from about 1930/40 to 1943/44. The first mill site was located on Mrs. Reynold's property, west, north and south of Drayton Valley. Other sites were south and west of Laurel School. Later on, another one was located on the correction line at the Entwistle Rocky Rapids Road. Later, the planer mill was added.

Our first house was built on the homestead. It had a dirt floor and roof, logs were hewed by hand, and the corners dove tailed and chinked up with moss. A better/warmer house was built for the winter. It had a shingled roof and a wood floor. Later on, the first house was moved closer to the second house and the two joined in the middle. Everything had to be kept in the house until the barn and other buildings were built. We slept in a tent until it got too cold outside or there was too much snow. One cold night we slept in the house so a sow decided to use the tent and make her bed by rooting the center out of a new mattress. That sow never knew how close she came to becoming pork chops!

The old Ford truck was turned into a tractor and fitted with tractor wheels. Later on at the mill, a track was built to run the tractor on to haul logs out of the bush to the mill. I don't believe it worked as well as they had hoped for, as either a tractor or a log hauler.

We made pets of a lot of the animals we had. A lamb we called Billy was given to us. He was an

orphan. Billy grew up to be pretty mean and gave some people a lot of trouble at times. Another pet was Billy the bull, who would let us ride on him. For a while we had a runty pig that I loved and a pet fawn named Buck. Even some of the chickens were pets. There were the dogs, Pal and Teddy and the ever-efficient mouser, Saucer the cat.

A lot of hard work in those days. It was really hard on Mom at times, with Dad being away so much. Everyone had to pull his or her share. The daytime hours spent cooking, baking, churning butter, scrubbing on the board, using the flat irons, canning, gardening and other chores; but there was time for fun and laughter. Social Credit picnics, lots of ice cream, ball games, berry picking, excursions, swimming in the Pembina River or in our creek that had been dammed. Skating, Christmas concerts and dances that would often last until daylight. If the events were held in the Easyford School (Perryville), the school would have to be ready for church first thing Sunday morning. Music consisted of anyone who could play an instrument, even if it was just a mouth organ. Sometimes we had to make our own entertainment. Would could/would sing, recite a poem or story, or do a dance? The radio was kept mostly for the news. Remember the games?! I spy, button button, spin the plate, etc.

Mom had a lovely singing voice which we all enjoyed. She had taken lessons as a young lady and often sang around the house and at get-togethers/concerts.

Art, Norma and myself went to Elk Head School. Being the youngest, I went the longest, but also attended Violet Grove, Laurel and Perryville Schools. Our first teacher at Elk Head School was Dorothy Glover (Vowk).

In the fall of 1942, my mother and I went to Victoria, BC. Mom had not been well and the doctor said she'd be a lot better at sea level. Dad joined us in 1943. In time, the rest of the family moved to the island and started a sawmill business. It was located up around Sunny Beach (Qualicum). They named the campsite "Little Alberta".

Bell and Bob Stewart's 50th Anniversary in 1959

At the time of this writing, there is only my brother Russell and myself left.

Russell and Eunice Stewart are in Quesnel, BC. My two sister-in-laws, Sophie and Emma Stewart are in Quesnel, BC. Brother-in-law, Harmy Bruins, in Medicine Hat, Alberta. My sisters, Helen and Audrey's families are mostly in Victoria, BC. Roy and Velma Pratt are in Edmonton, Alberta

MORLEY AND PAT SUITOR

Morley first arrived in Drayton Valley in June 1954. He was employed by Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. and worked, lived and played on "supply row' until June 1956, when we were married. We lived in a small skid house in Deby's Park until 1958, when we relocated to a much larger house across the road from the Mobil Oil office. In 1959, we moved again, this time to the suite above the J&L store. We stayed there until 1964, when we bought our own home. Morley remained with J&L until 1965, when he joined Alexson Inc. I worked for Continental Emsco in 1956-57.

Our first two children were born in Edmonton, Terry (1957) and Tom (1959). Lori Ann (1962) the youngest, was our Drayton Valley baby.

The years we spent in Drayton were good ones. Morley and I both curled and bowled. Morley played hockey with the Rebels (a most appropriated name). We were members of the United Church, I belonged to Oil Wives and Morley joined the Elks just before we moved to Edmonton. The children went to kindergarten through grade three and they started into dance, skating, hockey and music there.

Our favorite memories of Drayton are of the people we met and the lifelong friendships we made. We were all young families then and we relied on each other. We had so many great times doing the simple things, enjoying the company of good friends and watching our children grow.

We left Drayton in August 1966 so our children did most of their growing up in Edmonton. Morley was with Sheamar Supply, Wilson Oilfield Supply until 1990, when he retired. We have been fortunate to travel south in the winter. We love to golf both in Edmonton and Arizona. We really enjoy seeing so many folks from Drayton in the Mesa area.

Our eldest daughter Terry, her husband, Ken MacKenzie, and their children Jennifer and Derek live in Markham, Ontario. Our son Tom, his wife Christine (Hensel) and their children Matthew and Katie live in Kelowna, B.C. Our youngest daughter, Lori Ann, her husband Darren Rivet and their children Rebecca and Stacey live in Edmonton.

TED AND ADELINE SWANLUND

Ted and Adeline (nee Erga) were born and raised on farms in the Camrose, Alberta area, he at Hay Lakes and she at Kingman. Ted was employed by National Geophysical Co. at the time of their marriage in 1951. After many seismic moves from southwest Saskatchewan to northeast B.C., they settled in Buck Creek in June, 1955, when Ted began work with Socony Vacuum, later known as Mobil Oil Canada. He continued to work for this company for 26 years, retiring in 1981.

They built a house in Buck Creek and lived there three years. In August, 1958 they moved into another unfinished house in the Mobil Trailer Court in Drayton Valley. It seemed to take forever to finish it as another move occurred in June, 1961, when that house was put onto a basement at 4805-44 Street. They lived there until the fall of 1982 when they moved to 4436-43 Street. Adeline worked as a secretary at the Alberta West Central Health Unit for many years.

Their three children, Glen, born June 3, 1954, Dale, August 19, 1956 and Marie, January 11, 1959 graduated from Frank Maddock High School. Glen and Rosemary (Stickler) of Toronto were married September 15, 1979. They live in North Vancouver, B.C. and have three children, Amanda, Eric and Hayley. Dale lives in Penticton, B.C., Marie and Zoli Lukacs (from Calgary) were married May 15, 1982. They lived in Elkford, B.C. from 1982 until 1997 when they moved with their three children, Robbie, and twin girls, Katie and Laura to Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Dale, Ted, Glenn, Marie, (in front) Adeline Swanlund

Ted and Adeline are now enjoying retirement in Abbotsford, B.C., where they have lived since September, 1988.

There are lots of happy memories of life in Drayton Valley, great friends and good times. Even the mud (before pavement) doesn't seem so bad now! When my Dad came to visit he'd say, as he was cleaning his boots: "Why don't you bottle this stuff and sell it for glue?"

LLOYD AND EUNICE SWAP

Charles Swap was born in Douglas County, Minnesota, U.S.A. and Victoria Brown was born in Daisy, Washington, U.S.A. They were married in

Picnic on Ramstead Flat 1938. Back Row, L-R, Audrey Brown, Floyd Brown, Joe Marlow, Charley Swap, holding Eileen Lindskoog, Ernest Lindskoog, Lawrence Brown. Second Row, Victoria Marlow, Emma Swap, Grandma Combs, Hedy Case, Eva Brown, holding Seabert. Front Row, Beatrice Wall and others unknown.

Czar, Alberta and had five children, Bernice, Florence, Lloyd, Lois and Emma.

They farmed in Hughenden, Alberta,until 1936, when they decided to move to Rocky Rapids. They packed up all their belongings and took the C.N.R. freight up to Entwistle where they started out by wagon. Gailord Brown and Lloyd drove the cattle on foot ahead of the wagons. About twelve miles out of Entwistle, they had to leave one wagon behind and put the two teams together to pull the remaining wagon through the mud. They stopped at the Townsends, one half mile south of Rocky Rapids for a few days where Byron Swap was taking care of the place. They then rented Elden Bennettes place just to the east of the Townsends. They lived there for two years.

Lloyd went to school at Rocky Rapids until 1939, and then went to work in sawmills and prairie harvesting until 1941. In 1941, Lloyd joined the army and was in the infantry as a machine gunner. Lloyd served four years and eight months in the service.

Mill Hoff

While Lloyd was gone, his dad bought the quarter section on the hill west of rocky Rapids from Fred Shrock in 1943. Lloyd returned home and bought the quarter section from his dad in 1948.

In 1950, Lloyd married Eunice Starling, who was born and raised in Drayton Valley. Lloyd worked for Mobil Oil and construction companies and spent the last twenty five years before retirement working for Mitchell and Associates. Lloyd and Eunice have four children who were all raised and attended school in Drayton Valley: Charles, Garry, David and Jacqueline.

Charles and Joy, live in Drayton Valley, and have three sons, Scott, Collin and Adam. Garry, lives in Drayton Valley, and has one son, Jay, and one daughter, Stephanie, who gave us our first great- granddaughter, Camara. David and Audrey, live in Taber, Alberta, have one son, Jerry, and two daughters, Leanne and Corri. Jim and Jacqueline, live in Devon, Alberta, have two sons, Christopher and Thomas and one daughter, Meggan.

NORMAN AND ANNETTE SWENDSEID

By Norman (Swanee) Swendseid

In the late fall of 1954 my wife, Annette and I together with our four children, Dwayne, Glen, Jo-Anne and Arlene arrived in Drayton Valley. Mobil Oil transferred us from Swift Current to Drayton Valley as the Company was starting up a large drilling program to follow up on the Discovery Wee. I was a drilling foreman to assist Angus McNeil and Roy Burrow in the drilling program. We were told to expect to be in Drayton Valley for one or two years, however it was 37 years before I left. I might add 37 great years in what turned out to be a wonderful place to live. Our family was increased in 1957 with the arrival of Garry and again in 1960 when Richard arrived. All six children received their education in Drayton Valley.

I left Mobil oil in 1962 and started Swanee Well Servicing consisting of three service rigs. I sold out this company to Meraw and Magee Well Servicing in 1968 and at that time started Norette Oilfield Services which consisted of Hot Oil units and tank trucks. We built the first large hot oil unit to come into the oilfields for dewaxing oil wells. In 1975 I sold Norette Oilfield Services to son Dwayne and son in law Lanny Schultz which they have expanded and still operate today. The next few years with some periods of semi retirement were spent with Helm consulting and Three Way Rentals. I retired permanently in 1988.

Annette passed away in 1984. In 1991 I moved from Drayton Valley to Kelowna, B.C. there I met my new wife Sally. We were married January 1, 1995 and we live in Westbank B.C at Fairway 3 on the Shannon Lake Golf Course. We travel a lot and enjoy our retirement.

As for the children, Richard passed away in

August 1975 in a car accident. Dwayne and Valerie live in Drayton Valley and have three children, Lee, Tony and Alan. Dwayne and Lanny Schultz operate Norette Oilfield Services. Glen and Marissa live in Drayton Valley have four children, Scott, Cole, Mina and Gema. Glen owns and operates Stetson Motors. His son Scott and wife Alana live in Drayton Valley and have two children, Riley and Lane. Cole and wife Jodi live in Drayton Valley and hove one daughter Taylor.

Jo-Anne is married to Lanny Schultz and lives on an acreage near Drayton Valley. They have 2 children Leslie and Mathew. Mathew is in Australia. Leslie is married to Alex Lambert and they have two sons, Daniel and Justin. They also live on an acreage near Drayton.

Arlene and husband Roger Laing live in Edmonton. They have four sons, Benjamin, Bradley, Adam and Graeme.

Gary and Francis live in Drayton Valley. They have one son Riley and daughter Kristin. Gary and his partner own all type Rentals.

I have many great memories of Drayton Valley. When we first arrived it consisted of Blocks store, the old Elks Hall, a few buildings, a few businesses were starting and the Old Hotel was under construction. Trailers and skid shacks were springing up everywhere. The years 1955 and 56 were probably the busiest and most hectic in the history of Drayton Valley. Mobil Oil alone had 12 drilling rigs working and all the other oil companies were much the same. May times I didn't see my bed for 2 or 3 days, I caught a little sleep in the car whenever possible, but in spite of that, I loved it. Rain and mud were our biggest problem. Rubber boots were worn by everyone. Entertainment was limited. Maybe a dance at the Elks Hall or Saturday night spent at the old hotel beer parlor watching and waiting for the next fight. We all worked hard and played hard. Most of all I remember the great many people who worked so hard, cared for one another and were willing to volunteer for so many projects that made Dratyon Valley a better place to live.

I had the pleasure in the early years of serving on town council when the late Howard Pickup was mayor, followed by Dr. Henry Shimbashi. I also belonged to the Rotary club which was later disbanded. At the time our main project was building rotary Park which is still a very central part of town. As the town grew, many new projects came about.

With the building of the old arena in 1967 the Drayton Valley Minor Hockey Association was formed. I served on the first executive of the association with Dr. Shimbashi, Doug Nall and Heather Pankewitz. Another projects, the ski hill which at first started with an old shack as a clubhouse, a bunny hill and a rope tow. Now it is such a great facility with good hills, snow making equipment, T-Bars and a fine chalet. I have great memories of being on the executive, the great times and hours spent with volunteers making snow, tending T Bar and splicing rope.

The next big project complete with the help of volunteers, oil companies and service clubs is the present 18-hole golf course. Many of us remember the first golf course, the old one on the pasture a few miles out of town. Some of my fondest memories of the present golf course over the 2 or 3 years on the executive with Les Bannerman, overseeing the construction of the last 9 holes, installing the irrigation and building the dam.

The Community Bus Association was another project that started in the early day, about 1970. It is a non-profit organization looked after by volunteers. It has been extremely valuable to the Community at large. All these projects I speak of have provided me with great memories and were made possible by wonderful, progressive and caring people who loved their town.

I might add that my wife and I are contemplating a move back to Drayton Valley to make it our home once again. It's a wonderful town.

Editors note: Swanee was diagnosed with cancer and soon after moved back to Drayton to be near his family. Swanee spent his final days in Jo-Anne and Lanny's home and passed away March 21, 1999.

RAY & DORIS STUHL

I, Ray Stuhl, was born and raised in Edmonton. After I finished school, my family moved to the Reno district south of Evansburg. I moved to Drayton Valley in 1972 for the same reason everyone I know did: that's where the work was. I worked for several companies that no longer exist. It makes me feel kind off special when I realize that I outlived so many companies. The first company I worked for was Eskimo Well Servicing as a hot-oiler operator. I then worked for Drayton Tank Trucking as a driver and later for Macleans Well Servicing as a roughneck and derrickman. After that I worked for Imperial Oil and later for Warden Well Servicing. Then I decided to try my hand at self-employment, so I bought a 50 barrel tank truck and worked for Wide West until the company was sold. I built an Oilfield Steamer and was in that business as a sub-contractor and owner-operator for 17 years. I then sold my Oilfield Steamer and went to work as a truck driver for J & A Trucking until Multiple Sclerosis ended my career in 1991.

My first winter in Drayton Valley was spent in an 18 foot Holiday trailer at the trailer court where Derrick Mall is now. It had a diesel furnace and in the real cold weather the diesel would gel off. It took me a few nights of waking up cold before I was told to put a few cups of gasoline in the diesel tank to keep it from gelling. After that winter I decided that renting apartments was more appealing, and safer too. In 1974, I married Doris Gustafson, daughter of George and Doreen Gustafson. In 1975, our daughter, Cathy, was born and a year later we owned our first mobile home. When we bought it we didn't realize that there were no lots available so we had to wait three months for Country Style Trailer Park to be completed. In 1977, we moved to a house in Rocky Rapids that we purchased from Doris' father who had built it in 1970. In 1982, the oilfield slowed down here, so I had to work away from home for a few years. I moved my family in 1984 and returned when the heavy oil in the Lloydminster area slowed down. I worked in Kindersley, Saskatchewan for a year and then returned home. That's when I sold my steamer.

Doris (Gustafson) Stuhl:

Ray and Doris Stuhl, Cathy, and Wayne Gulka

As kids living at the propane shop, my sister Judy and I had to entertain ourselves, because we lived too far from the residential area. We drove the lawn tractor with a utility wagon behind as our "camper". We "camped" all over the yard. Dad built us a big playhouse where we played for years. My sister and I rode our bikes just over a mile to and from school. During the winter we walked home after school if it was nice. If the weather was bad the hired man took us to and from school.

When I was a teenager, we moved to Rocky Rapids to the house Dad built, and we took the schoolbus. What a luxury! My sister and I were janitors for the commmunity hall before indoor plumbing and running water was installed. I started a Youth Group for the Community and lead that for a while. As a youth activity we learned to country dance, which proved to have come in handy a couple of years later when I met my husband Ray at a Community Social. I graduated from highschool and married in 1974.

A year later our daughter Cathy was born in the old hospital here. As she grew up I became an involved Mom in her activities too. When my husband was self-employed, my secretarial skills learned in school and working out and helping my Dad as a kid, proved very helpful. I was everything from bookkeeper, dispatcher, hot-shot service, swamper, repairwoman at home and yardman. I was a Girl Guide leader of a unit for seven years and three more years at a district level. For three years I was the janitor at the Church of God, where we worshipped. I worked part time at A & W in the kitchen, then as evening supervisor. Then I was able to get a part time day job at Valley Gift & Stationery in 1985.

Cathy was involved for several years in the Guiding movement, the first girls' hockey team in Drayton Valley, choral throughout high school and piano lessons just to name a few activities. She started working part time at fourteen years of age at A & W for a few months, then got a job at Penney's Drug Mart. She worked there until she graduated from highschool. Cathy then moved to Calgary and attended S.A.I.T. for a year, graduating from Travel Counselling. The travel class went on a Mexican cruise where she met her husband, Wayne Gulka, who was from Edmonton. In 1995 they were married in Edmonton where they live and are employed.

NORM & DOROTHY THESEN

Born and raised in northeastern Saskatchewan, Norm & Dorothy felt fortunate to honeymoon in Banff, Alberta. We loved the province and hoped to some day make it our home. So realizing there was no future for us in Saskatchewan, with our little boy Len, we packed up what we could and headed for Drayton Valley in October, 1955. From Blackfalds we traveled through Edmonton to Drayton. Mr. & Mrs. Deby were the first people we met as we picked up a small trailer at their trailer court. We spent most of that winter in that little trailer.

At first Norm worked for MaCaulder Construction, building the cement sidewalks at the Mobil houses. Back then, the night skies shimmered with light from the flare pits. We would drive around and look at the rigs working in the area. They looked so cold and dangerous we didn't think we wanted any part of them. Soon the work was done on the sidewalks and after an unfortunate

experience where the man in the little trailer beside us died of asphyxiation, we packed up and headed for Blackfalds, Alberta. Norm had an uncle living there, so he got work on a water truck hauling water to two rigs on fast holes, which lasted for a short while because of the long hours (16-24 hrs. a day). He quit and went to work for Regent Drilling. Though we traveled all over Alberta and Saskatchewan drilling wildcat wells for six and a half years, we lived in 36 places, some of them twice, it seems we always came back to Drayton. We were very proud of our family of boys, three who were born during those years. Ken, born in Paradise Hill, Sk, Mark born in Edson, AB, and David who was born in Arborfield, SK.

Drayton Valley and surrounding towns were unbelievable back in those days. The mud was terrible. During a stay in Cynthia in 1958, one of the boilermen on the rig got stuck in the mud so bad that he had to get help getting out, and left his rubber boots in the mud and walked in his sock feet. Cynthia was a progressive place then. It had a curling rink, a hotel, a huge trailer court and motel, and service station with a restaurant. We picked our mail up at the counter in the hotel.

Parking a trailer in the oilfield was always a primary concern as there were not that many trailer courts. I remember a time when we parked in Drayton at Deby's, the back of our 22 ft. trailer rested on the ground and to get it level the front was sitting on two barrels.

After six and a half years, Norm went to work for Texaco Canada Exploration and in 1963, we built a house in Cynthia. In 1968 we moved the house to Drayton. Norm was very active in the community and coached hockey, led the cubs and scouts, etc. while Dorthy helped lead the brownies, and taught Sunday School. In 1972, we purchased Rose's Well Services. The company sponsored the Midget Clippers for about 17 years. Today the company has been amalgamated with Dial Oilfield Services, and it is owned and run by our four sons.

Life has been pretty good really. We met many good people over the years who remain in touch with us. Our sons are married now and the three originals have increased somewhat. Len married Valerie Hansen, and they have four children Christine, Pam, Brian & Sharon. Ken has one son Craig, and is now married to Terrill Young, who has three children, Dustin, Cedric & Jacinda. Mark has two sons, Justine & Everett and a daughter Alex. Mark is married to Danuta, who has two daughters, Monica & Alex. David is married to Meghan Macauley and they have three children, Wade, Troy & Mellisa. Drayton Valley has been a wonderful place to live and raise a family. We enjoy the community and the people in it.

RAY AND HAZEL THOMPSON

By Merle Litke

The year was 1930, when my mother, step-father, myself and all three siblings moved from Bowsman, Manitoba, to Pembina, Alberta – West of Drayton Valley, to begin farming in that area.

My name is Merle, and I was eight years old at that time. My brother's name was Charlie, and my two sisters were Margaret and Irene. My siblings ages were 14, 10 and 5 respectively. Our last name was "Parkinson". Our father, Tom Parkinson, remained in Manitoba. Our step-father's name was Ray Thompson. He and our mother, Hazel Thompson, had two more children, my step-sister and step-brother, Frances and Harvey. My parents have since passed on, as have my three original siblings, leaving myself, Frances and Harvey.

For the first few years in the Pembina area, we were without a school to attend. We lived there for about five or six years before a school was built for us to go to. We began school at this time, and walked three miles every day to get there. Mrs. Edith Deby was our teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, teaching grades one to eight.

At the age of seventeen, I quit school to go to work in the big city of Edmonton, Alberta. Approximately one year later, I quit work in the city and returned home to the farm. Two years later, at the age of twenty, I met and married my husband, Les Litke. I had met Les in Drayton Valley, and we married soon after. We then moved from Pembina, to Hinton, Alberta.

Les and I had six children. Les passed away in 1964. To the present time, I have remained in Hinton as have three of our children. Our other three children have gone from this area, and are living elsewhere. I am presently seventy eight years old, and up until now, I remain healthy and happy.

LOUIS AND JANET TINANT

By Janet Tinant

We moved here in November of 1987 from Westlock, Alberta. We purchased the funeral home which was known as Long's Funeral Chapel" at that time.

We reside in the Berrymoor area, land description S.E.¼ 19-49-6-W 5th. Louis is a Funeral Director and owns and operates the Drayton Valley Funeral Chapel. He also farms, raising purebred Charolais cattle. Janet is a Registered Nurse and works part time at the Drayton Valley Hospital in Long Term Care. Our family consists of two chil-

dren, Nicole and Michael. They both reside in Edmonton. Nicole left in 1994 and is attending the University of Alberta obtaining her Bachelor of Commerce degree. Michael moved away in 1997 and is attending N.A.I.T., taking Business Administration.

L to R, Back Row – Louis, Michael, Front Row ñ Janet and Nicole Tinant

THOMAS AND ANNIE TOWNSEND

Annie Douglas was born March 15, 1908 in Bruce Mines, Ontario. She was the youngest child and only daughter of Samuel and Mary Amanda (Bennett) Douglas. Annie had three older brothers; Walter Morris, William James and Clarence Matheson, all born in Ontario as well.

In August of 1908, the family left Ontario. They traveled by rail to Strathcona (South Edmonton), then by horse drawn stage coach to North Edmonton, then by team and wagon, arriving in Burtonsville in November of 1908. They stayed with Samuel's sister Carrie Burton briefly, and then moved west to their homestead in Rocky Rapids. Samuel was then working on the river drive for the Frazier Lumber Company.

Annie enjoyed hunting as a girl. She would take her dog Daisy hunting with her. She hunted small game as well as moose and deer. When Annie was 11 years old, she shot 18 prairie chickens in one day. The chickens were used to feed the threshing crew.

One of Annie's favorite pastimes was catching and frying minnows with her brothers and the Bray children, who were their neighbors. Annie attended her first Christmas tree viewing at the home of Bill and Jean Jeffries, whose house is still standing today.

Tom and Annie Townsend

Thomas Phillip Townsend was born December 15, 1897 in McLennan, Ontario. His birthplace was about 10 miles from that of Annie's. Thomas was the youngest child of Isaac and Jane (Murray) Townsend. Tom had been enlisted briefly in the Army during World War I, but had received a medical discharge. In 1919, he decided to move west because Ontario was too damp. He first arrived in Nesbitt, Manitoba. He worked on a farm there until he acquired typhoid fever. He had saved up $500 and was planning to go back to Toronto to become a Methodist minister, however, his savings were used up on medical care to recover from the fever.

Tom then returned to Ontario. He developed asthma and was told to go back west and stay there. He moved to Saskatchewan and lived there for 2 years before meeting Annie's brother Walter Douglas. Walter brought Tom to Rocky Rapids in the spring of 1922. Tom became a boarder at the Douglas residence, later building a log shack. On June 4, 1924, Tom married Annie Douglas.

The following year, Tom and Annie moved to Strome, AB. They worked for Byron Swap, who was a grain farmer. Annie was the cook and Tom worked in the fields. Their first son, Wilfred Matthew Townsend, was born in Strome on September 21, 1925. When he was just 13 days old, Tom and Annie returned to Rocky Rapids.

Tom was a multi-talented man. He was musically inclined and played at country dances. He was also a skilled carpenter. He used this talent to construct many buildings in Rocky Rapids and the sur-

rounding district. He was responsible for the construction of the first Anglican Church in Drayton Valley, as well as the first school in Rocky Rapids.

In the summer of 1929, while Tom was building houses in Turner Valley, Annie took young Wilfred and lived in a little frame house there. On May 22, 1930 back in Rocky Rapids, Tom and Annie's second son Melvin Douglas was born. They were living in a log shack at this time.

On February 19, 1933, their third son, Robert Thomas was born. They had built a new frame house by this time, which was called "Home Sweet Home". Tom and Annie lived in Entwistle briefly. Their youngest son, Gerald William was born there on May 11, 1936. This is also where their eldest son Wilfred first attended school.

The family moved back to Rocky Rapids, where they lived until 1947 when they moved to Edmonton. Wilfred, returned to the homestead, where he still resides today. Thomas Townsend passed away in October, 1977. Annie moved to the Shangri-La Lodge in January, 1993. She is presently residing in the Long Term Care unit of the Drayton Valley Hospital, where she has been since January, 1998.

WILFRED AND BERTHA TOWNSEND

By Bertha Townsend

In 1922, Wilf's dad homesteaded the quarter of land we still live on. In 1924, he married Annie Douglas. The following fall, 1925, they went harvesting to Strome, Alberta, where Wilf was born. When Wilf was 13 days old, they brought him back to the homestead. Here Wilf spent his growing up years attending school in Rocky Rapids. When he was through grade eight, he left school and started doing carpenter work with his dad. They built many homes throughout the area (Ernie Lindskog's, Check Ball's and Harry McGinn's and many others). In the winter months, Wilf worked in saw mills: Mr. Free's, Martin Richard's and Clarence Reynold's to name a few.

My folks came from Norwich, Ontario, when I was two years old. My dad and uncle built what I believe was the first motor home on a Chev chassis. My dad planned to homestead in the Peace River area but we ended up in a district called Corbett Creek, half way between Blue Ridge and Fort Assiniboine. When I was 15 years old, I came to Entwistle to stay with my sister whose husband was overseas. I went to school a year in Entwistle, and then I went to work in the hotel.

When Wilf was 20 years old, he was doing carpenter work in Entwistle and he and his dad were staying in the hotel. This is where we met in 1945. In 1946, we were married. The first winter we were married, we moved out to Wilf's dads camp where Wilf worked and I helped with the cooking. In the spring, we moved back to Entwistle. In April, 1947 our oldest daughter, Carol, was born. We had bought a small house in Entwistle but had to sell it and move to Edmonton as Wilf couldn't get work. At first he worked for Clark's Lumber Company, then carpentering with his dad. Then he drove transport truck. We lived in Edmonton for seven years, from 1947 to the spring of 1954, when we moved to where we now live. While we were in Edmonton, our second daughter, Darlene, was born in 1950, and our son Richard in 1952.

Tom Townsend with his first cabin

The year before we moved here, the oil companies were hiring men with grade eight education, but when we came they were asking for grade ten so Wilf was unable to get on with the oil companies, so he worked at various jobs cutting brush, carpentering and as a night watchman for Brown & Root.

Because jobs were seasonal and he liked mechanic work, he decided to be a mechanic. So in 1964, he started working for Drayton Valley Motors (owned by Red Fuhr). Because Wilf didn't have grade nine, he had to take what they called pre-first year grade nine and then four years apprenticeship. Wilf was a born mechanic and was always paid more than required for the length of time he had apprenticed while he was there. Red Fuhr sold the garage to Bob Mayhew.

In these years we added three more children to our family. Our third daughter Teresa was born in 1956, and our two youngest sons, Tommy in 1961, and Wilfred Jr. in 1964. The two boys were born here in Drayton Valley in the old hospital.

Wilf worked for many years for Bob Mayhew. Then along with three other men, bought Parkway Service. They ran this garage for a number of years, then sold out. Wilf then went to work for Valley Pontiac. When they closed down, Wilf decided to build a shop here. In 1982, he started his own business, which he ran until his retirement in 1990.

In 1967, our oldest daughter, Carol, married Ray Beland. They have four daughters, Dennise, Nicole, Danielle and Andrea. Our daughter Darlene married Dennis O'Neill from Penticton in 1969. They have three children, Lacey, Amber and Regan. Our son Richard married and has one adopted daughter, Tammy, and a daughter Terra. He remarried Darryle-Lynn Woods in 1993. Teresa married Jerry Bills in 1975. They have three children, Rachelle, Renae and Danny. Before Danny was born, Jerry was terribly hurt in a vehicle accident. Teresa married Brett Bueckert. They have three children, Mitchell and twins Marrisa and Vanessa. Wilfie married Cheryl Bird in 1994. They have one daughter Jackie. Tommy has one son Keegan.

Wilf and I have lived here for 44 years.

GORD TUCKER

The Tucker children attended school in Drayton Valley, often carrying their lunch in a lunch pail: a container from lard or jam with a handle. A new lunch kit, probably a Roy Rogers or Hop-A-Long Cassidy square-shaped variety, was Gord's in about Grade three. The kids teased Gord because now he was a big shot and didn't have to take a lard pail to school. One day, after school, he smashed the new kit against the outside of the school building. Unknown to Gord, his dad was sitting in the truck watching. When Gord got home, his 'gluteus maximus' had more dents than the lunch kit.

Toilet paper was a luxury – often tissue paper from pears or peaches replaced the Eaton's catalogue. One winter, to protect one of his sisters who had dropped a roll down the outhouse hole, Gord lowered himself through the hole and balancing on frozen turds retrieved the paper. He came out smelling like a rose.

He also remembers "bugging Uncle Ted" by scaring him or throwing something at his horse and running away. Usually Gord out ran his uncle. But when he was caught, he was dunked head first in the water trough. The youngster ate more of "that slimy green stuff in the water trough" than the average young bull.

Weather conditions, as now, were a factor in sports activities especially in winter when hockey was played on outdoor rinks. Occasionally, Gord was able to skate to school on the frozen roads.

Gord was born June 19, 1944 and grew up with the town of Drayton Valley. Many of his recollections are of situations that were a result of the "oil boom" to the area. The rapid increase in population resulted in the small school becoming over-crowded. Students were shifted to the churches and halls in the community. The last two months of Gord's grade four, a rookie teacher fresh out of University, Miss Cromie, taught in the Anglican Church hall. One sunny day Gord brought a padlock to school and locked the door from the outside at 9:01 am. All the boys and one girl, Barb MacKenzie, jumped out the window and played ball until 3:30 before returning to release the teacher and the rest of the girls.

In Grade Five, Gord went to live with his Grandma Tucker in Edmonton when a shortage of schoolrooms in Drayton meant students attended school every second day. But, after only a week, Gord was back in Drayton Valley. An incident with a grade six student in a football game ended when "Rollie Miles" and "Jackie Parker" were caught fighting. Gord was disciplined for being in the Grade six playground and that brought about the discovery that Gord's family lived outside of Edmonton and would have to pay a hefty school fee.

Gord and his classmates graduated from Frank Maddock High School (current H.W. Pickup Jr.High.) In 1968, he graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelors degrees in Physical Education and Education. He and his wife, Val, moved to Bowden, Alberta, where Gord taught until 1980 before moving their family of 3 daughters, Centel, Decoa, and Kylie, to Drayton Valley.

TUCKER, LESLIE AND LOUISE (NEE LAINCHBURY)

Submitted by Louise Tucker

Leslie was born in Entwistle, Alberta on June 28, 1922. He was the second child of Jack and Violet Tucker. His father was born May 3, 1882 in Allinburg, Ont. His mother, was born in Nottingham, England, March 11, 1892.

Jack Tucker homesteaded the SW. ¼-8-49-7-W5 in 1911, which is now part of the Town of Drayton Valley. At that time it was called Power House. There was supposed to be a Dam built on the North Saskatchewan River, but when war broke out it was cancelled.

After Jack Tucker returned home from World War I, he worked in the coal mine in Entwistle. There, he met and married Violet Bills who had come from England with three children, Johnny, Winnie and Dan. Her husband had been killed in the war. There were four more children added to the family – Evelyn, Leslie, Mae and Teddy.

Leslie moved as a small baby, with his parents and family to this homestead where he still resides. He grew up on this farm, attended Eldorado School in Drayton Valley (which his father, Jack, named after a gold mine he worked in Dawson City. Leslie helped to pick roots and clear the land. He worked in sawmills. And harvested in other areas in Alberta.

He spent 3½ years in the Military during the 2nd world war but never left Canada. In 1943 he married Louise Lainchbury, the second child of Alfred and Frances Lainchbury.

I was born October 11, 1922, moved to Drayton Valley with my parents, 3 sisters – Isabel, Thelma, and Iona and 3 brothers – Elwin, Albert and Walter, in 1939. Another sister, Margaret, was born after our coming to Drayton Valley. They lost a 4½ year old brother in 1929. He is buried in Veteran, Alberta. The family moved from Airways, Alberta, which was about 20 miles south of Hughendon. (The dried out prairie)

L to R, Iona, Leslie, Louise, Darleen, Greg, Gordon, Tom Tucker

I attended Lakesend School. After coming to Drayton Valley at the age of 16, I worked in Edmonton for a few years: first as a housemaid for a retired professor, then at the Snowflake Laundry, and lastly at the Hamley Press bookbindery. I then married Leslie and moved back to Drayton Valley.

Leslie and I began farming. In the winter, Leslie worked in lumber camps. In 1948, he started trucking with Jensen Brothers, hauling livestock to Edmonton and barrels of gas and freight back to Drayton Valley. After trucking for 7 – 8 years he sold his truck to Albert Lainchbury. Leslie spent several years looking after the hockey arena, curling rink and golf course. Their five children were all raised and attended school in Drayton Valley. Gordon was born, in 1944, Darleen (Broadbent), in 1946, Iona (Hutzal), in 1948, Tom, in 1951 and Greg, in 1962.

The winters were long and cold but there was always a big wood pile to fuel the stove for warmth. There were many hardships, with chores, children, etc. I stayed home to look after the children and the farm when Leslie worked away in the winter months. There was no phone or vehicle.

The Herndons who lived across the road, were wonderful neighbours, so I always had access to a babysitter or a helping hand. I called on them so many times for help with problems with the cattle and when the kids were sick or hurt. To this day I'm, still very thankful for each one of them. Everyone seemed to manage to visit taking turns on a Sundays for a big meal with families and relatives. The evenings usually ended with card playing which everyone enjoyed.

Leslie and Louise Tucker's 50th Anniversary

The Christmas Concert was always a big event. One Christmas Eve, the family (with Gordon 2½ years and Darleen, 2 months), was going to my sister's (Thelma and Andrew Johnson's) for supper. They lived one mile east and ½ mile south of the town centre. We were riding in a one horse cutter (or sleigh). There were several small hills or slopes on the road and about ½ mile east of town, our sleigh slid up and touched the horses heels. The horse kicked a board off the dash of the sleigh and it went flying. Luckily, Gordon who was sitting on the floor with his back to the dash wasn't hurt. The tugs unhooked from the sleigh and away went the horse on a dead run . We were left in the middle of the road. So on we went walking and carrying the kids the final mile. When we arrived, supper was over and everyone was wondering what happened to us. However, there was lots of supper left and Dan and Margaret Bills brought us home later. The next morning Leslie went looking for the horse and found her standing on the river bank (beyond where the cemetery is now).

The summers were busy with farming and animals, (pigs, chickens, and turkeys) a big garden, and always a lot of vegetables to can. Leslie was a good hunter so we always had lots of canned meat. We picked berries, milked cows, and shipped cream for grocery money. Life was simple but interesting. Our summer outings were going to picnics and ball games, as Leslie always played ball.

We lived in a three room shack for the first couple of years, then bought and moved a four room house to the farm. We built our existing house in 1954 where we still live today. With the discovery of oil, came the power and the electric washing machine, fridge and freezer, along with running water, etc. These were great to have.

Now in 1997, everything has changed. The family has all grown up with children of their own. Gordon married Valerie Jacknisky and they live in D.V. Darleen married Raymond Broadbent and lives on a farm near D.V. Iona married Ed Hutzal and they live in D.V. Tom married Anne Sinclair and they live in Cold Lake. Greg married Leila Hotte and they live in Kelowna, B.C. Most of the home quarter was sold to the Weyerhauser Mill which is now operating on it.

Leslie and I have always kept active – with golfing, curling, Leslie's ball playing up until the last few years. He ran in the 100 meter dash in the 1992 Alberta games for the 65 years and older and won a gold medal. He built a log cabin in 1995/97 on another quarter of land. We all enjoy it and the family has spent several special occasions there.

We are thankful for all our family and friends as well as our good health.

Leslie Tucker cabin 1996

GREGORY KIRK TUCKER

Submitted by Louise Tucker

Greg was born in Drayton Valley Hospital, March 15, 1962. He is the fifth child of Leslie and Louise Tucker. (See family for details of parents and siblings).

Greg grew up on his parent's farm in Drayton Valley. He attended school in town. He was very active in sports – played baseball, hockey, and golf at an early age. After leaving school here he attended school and played Junior "A" Hockey in Edson

L to R, Greg , Leila, Bailey and Braxton Tucker.

and Wainwright. From there he went to Palm Springs to College and golfing. Returning to Drayton Valley, he started apprenticing as a Golf Pro. He spent one year of his apprenticeship in Camrose, then returned to Drayton Valley where he was head Pro for 4 years before relocating to Kelowna where he was Associate Pro at the Quail Ridge Golf Course.

Greg married Leila Hotte, in March, 1986. She was the sixth child of Buster and Emma Hotte. They have two children – Braxton, born May 6, 1987, and Bailey, born April 8, 1988. They now reside in Kelowna, B.C.

THOMAS JOHN TUCKER

Submitted by Louise Tucker

Tom was born in Edmonton in 1951. He is the fourth child of Leslie and Louise Tucker. (See family for details of parents and siblings)

Tom grew up on his parents farm. He attended school in the town of Drayton Valley and worked at various jobs there. Tom attended the University of Alberta, and graduated in 1977 with a B. Ed. He taught for one year in Lamont and then moved to Cold Lake, Alberta and taught there for a while.

Tom, Ann, Heather and David Tucker

Tom was married in 1973 to Anne Sinclair, who is the third child of Reverend Bob and Josephine Sinclair, from Ontario. They have two adopted children – Heather, born April 15, 1983, and David, born May 4, 1984. They still live in Cold Lake.

In 1983 Tom underwent a kidney transplant (his sister Iona was donor) Tom substitute teaches and drives the Seniors' Handi Van. Anne is Supervisor of Rehabilitation for Area Three of the Lakeland Regional Health authority. The children attend school in Cold Lake.

Tom is involved in community activities. He plays and coaches several sports teams and is an active member of several town committees. He is also very interested in local politics, as well he has been very active in Big Brothers Association serving for a few years on their National Board.

WILLIAM AND EVELYN TUCKER

Written by Evelyn (Joesting) Tucker

Our relationship goes back a long way, actually since my beginning, as Ted's mother, Violet Tucker, was the midwife for my mother when I was born back in 1931. Ted had already come into this world in 1927. Ted and I were married Dec. 8, 1950. It was a very cold winter that year with lots of snow.

On May 2, 1951, our first son, John William (Jack), was born. Ted worked in the lumber camps until the spring of 1954, when he bought a truck and started to haul freight with Milt Jensen (a brother-in-law). Our second son, James Ted (Jim), was born Feb. 25, 1954. Our third son, Milton Leslie (Milt), arrived July 7, 1956.

By this time, Grandma Violet Tucker was in poor health. In January of 1957, we left Drayton

Standing: Dick, Milton, Chris, sitting: Jack, Evelyn, Ted and Jim Tucker

Valley and moved to Edmonton to look after Grandpa John Tucker. Grandma Violet passed away on Jan. 15, 1957. Grandpa John passed away in May, 1959. Richard Mark (Dick), our fourth son, was born Aug. 5, 1960.

On July 1, 1961, we moved to our farm in Violet Grove. We farmed and Ted continued trucking. On Dec. 25, 1963 our fifth son, Denver Chris (Chris), came as our major Christmas present.

In 1970, Ted retired from the trucking industry and started work as a Caretaker for the Centennial Arena in Drayton. He then moved on to the County of Parkland and worked there for eleven years. He retired from that to full time farming till 1989. Ted now plays slow pitch ball and golfs in the summer. He hasn't completely retired from the farming as he helps a nephew with chores to keep in touch with it. I have worked on the farm and raised the boys. I always seem to be kept busy with one chore or another. I have my golfing and curling to keep myself active as well as the eleven grandchildren who range from 4 to 25 years of age to keep us entertained.

Ted and Evelyn Tucker family

ERIC PERCY TURNER

Written by Betty Starling with information provided by Les and Louise Tucker

Eric Percy Turner was born in Reigate, Surrey, England, on April 16, 1899 to Herbert Richard and May Annie (Wood) Turner. Eric had a younger brother, Stuart Gordon called Gordon by the family. Gordon was for many years associated with the East Surrey Gas Company at Redhill in Reigate. He was also a member of the Reigate Town Council

Eric's father, Herbert, was an accountant by profession. His forebears had lived in Reigate for some 250 years or more. Herbert passed away in 1942. May Turner continued to live in one of the many Turner properties until later in her life and passed away in 1966.

Eric attended Reigate Grammar School from 1911 until 1916. He was a member of the officers Training Corp (Junior Division) of the institution, attaining the position of Platoon Sergeant.

As in scholastic performance where he received many, many awards for his work, cadet records relate that he was a thoroughly efficient, keen and energetic Platoon Sgt. Reigate Grammar students were inspected by the London Board of Education. The excellence Eric showed in these early years was maintained throughout his life

Eric served in World War I, enlisting on March 3, 1917 with the Northumberland Fusiliers, and traveled to France. He received a British War Medal. (Victory Cross). On February 22, 1919, he transfered to the Army Reserves.

Eric Percy Turner, World War I, 1916

Papers stamped in Port Entry, Quebec, Canada, in 1919, mark Eric's coming to Canada. He traveled west, and worked for a farmer in Lloydminster for a year. Nineteen twenty finds Eric in Drayton Valley where he purchased a quarter section of land, complete with a two bedroom log house from Tom Geiggi NE-¼-6-49-7 W5th. He also obtained the SW ¼-6-49 -7 W5th possibly homesteaded as well as river flats SW-3-49-7 W5th, later sold to Leon Peck Sr.

Eric joined in the life of the community serving on the School and Community Hall Board. He attended country dances and annual picnics. A few of the near by bachelors would gather at Eric's home.for Christmas dinner. The meal would be polished off by a plum pudding sent by Eric's mother from England. Parcels from his mother also contained many a hand knit sock. Through the years Eric and his mother maintained a regular correspondence.

Eric was an efficient and conscientious farmer. He kept his fields in shape and would pick and burn any appearing weeds. His agricultural knowledge often served his neighbors in the absence of a district agriculturist.

In the early years he had a herd of cattle on his south quarter, and the site of a human walking up to the corduroy road would send cattle on the dead run. As other farmers of the area he did mixed farming, having grain and hay crops. He had a large hay shed

on his south quarter. Milking a cow or two, tending pigs, and having chickens were all part of a day's work.

Gardening was also among his activities and later he added fruit trees and bushes to his farm. He grew and canned among other fruits his own plums. He of course made jams and jellies. In 1949 Les Herndon, his neighbor to the north, built a two story house for Eric.

Eric was an avid reader and subscribed to many periodicals of the day. The Winnipeg Free Press and the Saturday Evening Post to name a couple.

Over the years Eric, on occasion, did have people live with him. Eric and Mildred Jonzon lived with him sometime in the thirties. Then in the forties Eric hired a house keeper by the name of Hertha. The two bedroom log house was repapered and freshly calcimined ready for his new employee. Sometime during the sixties Rose and Jack Oswald lived with Eric. Many a sealer was filled with the produce from Eric's garden with Rose's help.

As a bachelor Eric would wash clothes and bake bread on Sunday when he would take a break away from whatever out door work he could. Also Sunday would be a day to drop in on a neighbour for a visit and probably enjoy a meal with them. Any picture of Eric would not be complete without his pipe.

Eric was a charter member of the Drayton Valley Rural Electrification Association. Eric passed away in the Drayton Valley hospital on January 28, 1982.

As stated in Dr. W.S.B. Loosmore's book, on early settlement in Drayton Valley, "To Trails End", Eric was a significant benefactor to the Drayton Valley area. He established the Drayton Valley Foundation.

Two pictures of the same men, first photo is the young men in 1929, the second picture is of the men in 1979. L to R, Harry (Scotty) White, Carl Anderson, Chubby Brownbill and Stanley Pickavance

PETER AND KATHERINE TURTIAK

Written by Walter Turtiak

Peter Turtiak was born on March 2, 1899, and Katherine Iwanicke was born on December 24, 1905, in the village of Zloczow, Poland. They were married in February, 1925. (I), Walter was born on November 13, 1926; Bill was born on May 3, 1929, in the village of Zloczow, Poland; Doris was born on May 28, 1937; Alex on April 5, 1946, at home on the homestead at Violet Grove, Alberta.

In the twenties, after World War I, the Canadian Government had land agents in Poland asking people to immigrate to Western Canada. The land was cheap. A person could get 160 acres for $10.00. Dad sold his few hectares of land in Poland and sailed to Canada on a boat called Metagum, landed at Saint John, New Brunswick, at the end of May, 1930. From there the family travelled by C.P.R. train to Lamont, Alberta. They stayed there for two years. At the land office in Edmonton dad was told that there was a lot of good land in the Drayton Valley, Alberta, area. In the spring of 1931, dad, his brother-in-law Bill Ewanicke and cousin Sam Mikulin left Lamont by team and wagon for Drayton Valley. They located their homesteads (land) 11 miles southwest of Drayton Valley. They went back to Edmonton, had their land registered and paid $10.00. Dad homesteaded on S.E. quarter Section 12-48-8W5. He went back that summer and built a 12 x 18' house from hewed logs and plastered it with clay mixed with dry grass. He used small spruce poles and birch bark on the roof. He cleared a small piece of land for a garden and returned to Lamont (Alberta) that fall.

Katherine, Peter Turtiak, friend Nick Doluik, Walter and Bill Turtiak

In May 1932, he moved his family from Lamont by wagon and a team of horses along with all their belongings which they brought from Poland, plus a 14" walking plow and a 6' disc which he bought in

Lamont. In the spring of 1933, he cleared 3 acres of land by hand for William (Chubby) Brownbill, for a cow, so we would have milk, cream, butter and cottage cheese. He cleared a few acres of land by hand each year and broke it with a walking plow and two horses. They also grew a big garden. There was a lot of wild game and prairie chickens for meat. They picked blueberries, saskatoons, raspberries and strawberries for fruit. The first two years, while living on the homestead, dad went to the Stony Plain District with his wagon and team of horses for the harvest, to earn a few dollars and to bring back some flour. Mother stayed home on the homestead with Bill and me (Walter). The nearest neighbours were a mile away. She cut grain with a sickle and tied it into bundles with the same straw and stooked it. The first 4 or 5 years the grain was cut by hand with a sickle or a scythe, stooked, then stacked after it was dry and threshed with a flail during the winter. Also hay was cut with a scythe and raked by hand, then stacked. There were no threshing machines in the area. In 1938 Truman Fry started custom grain cutting with a binder and four horses. He cut grain for dad for about 5 years until dad got his own binder. The first threshing machine threshed for dad in 1938. The twine on the bundles was cut by hand, then fed into the machine by hand and the straw was taken away with a pitchfork from the straw conveyor at the back. The grain went into bags or a wagon box. The threshing machine ran on a one cylinder stationary engine. It was moved from place to place by horses. All the grain was stacked at that time. The cost of threshing grain was 5 cents per bushel for wheat, 4 cents for barley and 3 cents for oats. The next threshing machine that threshed in the area was owned by Mastre Bros. It was a modern machine. They threshed in the area for 5 years. Most of the grain was stacked. Then other threshing outfits came. Most of the grain then was threshed from stooks.

The first few years while living on the homestead dad went to Drayton Valley for groceries and mail. In 1935, Ernie Forsythe built a store and his brother-in-law, Matt Burnett, started a postoffice in his house and named it Violet Grove. Matt Burnett, or his wife Agatha went to Drayton Valley once a week to pick up the mail with a saddle horse in the summer and a horse and cutter in the winter. Violet Grove was named by Violet Forsythe because a large patch of violets grew there.

In 1936 a school was built ½ mile east of the Violet Grove store and postoffice. School started in November. Ernie Forsythe was the first teacher. I was 10 years old and my brother Bill and I walked 5½ miles to school. We could not speak English. The teachers were Ernie Forsythe for 2 years, Miss Ines

Violet Grove School 1941. Top, L-R, Walter Turtiak, Milton Durham, Walter Ewaniske, Mike Mikulin, Arthur Durham, Teddy Boodle, Vernon Hoefling, Freddy Erickson, Eldon Young, William Turtiak. Second row, Ramona Mikulin, Lydia Hamilton, Marjory Burnett, Dorothy Giddings, Olive Burnett, Mary Berezowski, Helen Jacknife. Third row, Mary Jacknife, Lily Erickson, Barbara Schmidt, Gloria Forsythe, Ella Schmidt, Iris Durham, Leora Hoefling, Rose Hines. Fourth row, Robin Boodle, George Hines, Allan Hoefling, Luke Gurnick, John Ewaniske, John Berezowski, Frank Gurnick, Arthur Appel

Burnett, Cecil Davis, Miss Opal Stonehocker and Miss Lillian Hayward. Mother and dad started to milk a few cows and shipped cream to Edmonton by Jensen Bros. truck. They fed the milk to the pigs. They took the eggs to Ernie Forsythe's store and traded them for groceries. Dad hunted squirrels in the winter and sold the hides at the store. In 1938, Bill Appel built a store in Violet Grove, so there now were two stores.

At first, dad hauled wheat to be milled into whole wheat flour, barley and oats to be ground for pig feed, to Swany Jonzon, one mile south of Drayton Valley, with a sleigh and horses in the winter. In 1939, Matt Burnett started custom grain crushing, which he ran with an Oil Pull Rumley tractor every second Saturday.

In 1939, dad built a kitchen onto the house out of hewed logs. He put a new roof on the house. He shingled it with homemade shingles. He made a chimney from clay mixed with straw. The inside of the house was plastered with clay, mixed with straw, and white washed with lime, once or twice a year, to keep it clean. The outside was also plastered with clay. They lived in this house until he built a new modern house in 1959. There was no indoor plumbing in the old house.

Doris, Peter, Alex, Donny (standing), Walter, Katherine, Walter and Peter Turtiak

In the fall of 1943, I went to work at a logging camp. Wages were $1.50 for a 10 hour day, plus room and board. Dad logged on his own land in the winter of 1945 and sold the lumber for $15.00 per thousand board feet after expenses were paid. On March 26, 1946, dad bought me a quarter section of land, NW30-48-7W5 for $640.00. There was 5 acres of land cleared and it was fenced. I cleared by hand about 10 acres in the next 3 years. I bought a 1929 20-35 Allis Chalmers tractor and a breaking plow in 1948 and did some custom breaking for local farmers. In 1950 I bought a used 22-38 Case threshing machine and did custom threshing for the next 2 years. I bought my first rubber tire tractor, a Massey Harris 44, in 1951. That summer, there was a brush cutting outfit in our area, clearing land. I had about 30 acres cleared. Dad also had about 20 acres cleared. I broke some of the clearing for dad and myself with the Allis Chalmers tractor and with a breaking plow the next year.

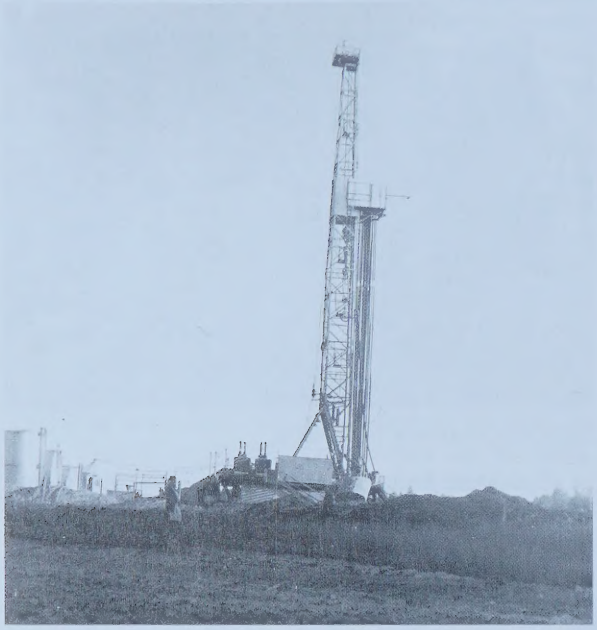
2035 Allis Chalmers 1929 tractor

I worked at logging camps every winter from 1943 to 1953, some in the Drayton Valley area and in the Whitecourt area. At Whitecourt I operated a cat, skidding full length trees to the sawmill. In the spring of 1953 Mobil Oil discovered oil southwest of Violet Grove, which was named Pembina Oilfield. That summer I worked in the Big Valley Oilfield, operating a D.7 cat, filling sumps. In the fall of 1953 I operated a cat, clearing a few wellsites and lease roads near the discovery well. The winter of 1954, I operated a cat for Glen Contractors, cutting seismic lines in the present Cynthia area. In the spring of 1954 I started to work for J. Wright Construction, operating cats, clearing, building well sites, lease roads and filling sumps for the next 3 years in the Violet Grove, Lodgepole, Cynthia areas. The winters of 1955 and 1956, I operated a D.7 cat for J. Wright Construction, cutting seismic lines in the Northwest Territories, along the MacKenzie River, west of Hay River, towards Fort Simpson and south towards the Alberta border. In the summer of 1957, I operated a D.7 cat for J. Wright Construction, north of Valleyview, Alberta, building Highway 43. In August, 1956, Mobil Oil drilled 2 oilwells on my land.

In August of 1958, I went into partnership with my brother Bill. We bought a used Allis Chalmers HD15A cat, with a brush cutter and breaking plow. I finished clearing the rest of my quarter section that

fall. I also finished clearing dad's quarter section. I broke most of it the next summer. I cleared most of the highway right-a-way to the Brazeau Dam and Powerhouse in the summer of 1959 and winter of 1960.

We cleared and broke land in the Violet Grove and Drayton Valley areas during the 1960's for farmers. We also worked in the Pembina Oilfield, clearing, building wellsites, lease roads, and filling sumps.



General Petroleum Drilling Rig #14

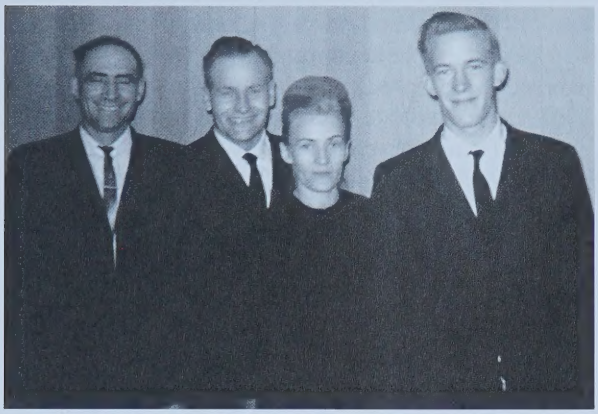
In August 1962, I married Vera Brown. We had 3 children, Walter G; born December 31, 1962, Peter; born January 3, 1965 and Patsy born on August 4, 1966. In August, 1969, my wife left me and the children. We were divorced in August, 1974. A few housekeepers and neighbours helped me to raise my children. They went to school by bus to Drayton Valley. Now they are living in Edmonton. Son Walter and Debbie have 5 sons. Peter and Phyllis don't have children. Patsy is single. My brother Bill married Velma Brown. They have a son and a daughter. Alex married Moreen and they have 2 daughters. They are divorced. They live in the Violet Grove area. Sister Doris married Robin Brown, lives in Blue River, B.C. and has 1 son. Dad passed away on January 14, 1967, of a heart attack, at home. Mother passed away on July 8, 1987, in the Drayton Valley hospital.

I bought a quarter Section of land, SW30-48-7W5, which had about 20 acres cleared, with 2 oilwells, on March 6, 1963. I finished clearing the rest of the quarter that spring and broke most of it that summer. I also worked building country roads with a cat and scraper, farmed my land and raised cattle. After my marriage broke up in August, 1969, I sold my share of the company to brother Bill. That fall I started to work for Anchor Construction, operating cats clearing pipeline right-of-ways and backfilling pipeline ditches in the Pembina Oilfield, in the Drayton Valley area. In the summer of 1972, the County of Parkland started to rebuild Highway 620 to Lodgepole. I operated a cat and scraper for brother Bill for the next 3 summers, then cleared land for farmers during the winter in the Drayton Valley area. In 1977, I built a new modern house on the farm. In the spring of 1978, the Department of Highways started to rebuild the Cynthia Highway 621. I operated a cat and scraper for Bill for 2 summers. In 1980, I started to work for Joesting Construction, operating cats, clearing, building lease roads and wellsites, in the West Pembina Oilfield, west of Lodgepole and Cynthia.

On October 17, 1982 at about 2:30 p.m., Amoco Dome Brazeau River 13-12-48-12 oil well, located about 20 kilometers west of Lodgepole, blew out of control, while the crew were coring, blowing Hydrogen Sulphide, H2S, poisonous gas and its rotten egg odour into the atmosphere. It sprayed about 100 acres of timberland and the Pembina River with sulphur and condensate around the wellsite, caught fire, burning Nabors 14E oil drilling rig and the timber. The burned rig was removed from the wellsite. About 100 acres of the timber that was burned was piled up and burned. The first fire was put out with blasting powder. A big crane was used to lift the blowout preventor while the well was blowing. Two American firefighters were knocked down by the swing blowout preventor while they were trying to get it into position over the casing bowl, jarring their gas masks, which allowed H2S poisonous gas to enter under the masks. One man died on the wellsite; the other died in a hospital in the U.S.A. The well caught fire again, burning the big crane and a D.7 cat. Amoco brought in another firefighting crew. It took 67 days to bring the oilwell under control. The well was on fire for 41 days and for the 26 days the oilwell wasn't on fire it was just blowing into the atmosphere. The well was finally capped, while it was burning, on December 23, 1982, about 3:00 pm. The lease was rebuilt and a drilling rig was brought in to finish drilling the well and run casing in. I operated a D.8 cat for Joesting Construction for 40 days on this fire.

At the end of March, 1984, I quit operating cats due to poor health. I carried out mixed farming for the next 7 years, raising hay and cattle. I retired from farming in the spring of 1991. I'm still living

on the farm. I have done some travelling in Canada and the U.S.A.



Walter, Bill, Doris, and Alex Turtiak

JACK AND PEGGY TYLER

Written by Peggy Tyler

"I have a job". What wonderful news. "What is your job and where will you be working?" "Drayton Valley?", elation turned to mild despair. My memories of Drayton Valley were of pre-oil days, 1951, to be exact, mud, rain, narrow winding road, a very small hamlet 25 miles from anything resembling civilization. So, Jack departed for Drayton Valley in 1956, four months before I was able to join him.

Jack worked in oil accounting for Pembina Pipe Line. He lived in the bachelor shacks in the front yard, like many others who began their career in the oil field. Jack later transferred out to the field in maintenance, gauging, ending up in the metering department. Jack immediately made plans to move a 2-bedroom house shell that we bought west of Drayton Valley, to a lot that we bought from the Church of God.

Our first years in Drayton Valley were busy. I had a job teaching grade 3 to forty plus pupils. Classrooms were still under construction, so the first 3 or 4 months were on a split-shift alternate days with another grade 3 teacher. Our home became a temporary alternate classroom for children who needed extra school time.

To add to our busy schedule, John was born in August, 1957, a midnight trip to Edmonton. John was joined by his 2 sisters, Dinene, in 1959 and Alayne in 1961. Both the girls were born in the new hospital, now the site of the Lezure Lea Apartments.

We joined the Anglican Church, bowled in the new bowling alley and went off to the neighbours to watch black and white television. The luxury of our own television had to take second place to finishing the interior of our home.

The first home was soon finished but had to be sold because it was too small for a family with three children. We rented for a bit and then purchased the Diamond Motel from Roy and Mary Burrows. We operated the motel as a motel for about 5 years, before converting the building to 3 apartments. Then we moved to a rented company home. Later we sold our motel property to Sunshine Ford.

Our days in the Pembina house were very pleasant. We were surrounded by other young, growing families. In 1967, a new subdivision was opened on the north side of 54 Avenue, in a field, previously owned by John MacKenzie. Jack watched all the new homes under construction and remarked every day: "I should build a house". I told him if you want to build a house, go buy a lot, and so he did. This lot cost $1,300, a far cry from The Church of God lot, which cost $300 in 1956. Once again we were in the building business.

With our growing family, our activities expanded into the usual family clubs, cubs, boy scouts, girl guides, piano lessons, dancing lessons, hockey and then skiing. At the ski hill we organized the running of the concession by volunteers for a couple of years. Dinene and John became ski patrollers.

Because Drayton Valley continued to grow and children continued to come, I supplemented the family income by substitute teaching, $13 a day in the '50's. Fortunately this great salary soon rose. My substitute teaching career lasted until the early '80's, when wages were over $100 a day. In 1980's, I worked part time in home care for the Edson health unit.

In the1970's it was becoming very popular for families to go back to their roots – , mainly buy a farm. As with the house, Jack once again said: "I should buy a farm". We purchased the Fred Litke farm one half mile north of the Rocky Rapids corner. Naturally, our townhouse was once more for sale. We purchased a Muttart modular home for the farm and the work began. The teenage girls flatly refused to move to the farm unless they could have pigs. We dissuaded them from the pigs and they settled for 2 orphan lambs and moved.

At the farm, we cleared about 100 additional acres of land, built fences, raised 20 beef calves a year. All this in addition to working full time for Jack and part time for Peggy. We made hay progressing from the small square bales to the large round bales. Because we often had to pasture a lot of land, we supplemented the hay necessary for feed by doing some custom baling for various neighbours. Harold Hammerlindl said our farming days would last 3 years, but we stayed 17 years. In 1988, we realized that the time to leave the farm had come, while we could still handle the cattle.

Our plans had always been to retire to B.C. and our family had all successfully found careers. We put the farm up for sale in two lots. Lenard Theisen purchased 40 acres and the remaining 120 acres were sold very quickly. Later Lenard purchased the 120 acres from the new owner so once again the farm took on its original size. We sold our farm so quickly, that we had to buy the Jim Crough house in town in order to have a place to live, until we were ready to move to Cobble Hill, B.C.

Along the way, Jack and I served on various community organizations, Red Cross, School Board, Evergreen Gas Co-op, Scouts, Girl Guides, Anglican Church Women. We spent from 1956-89 in Drayton Valley and for the past 8 years lived on ½ acre in Cobble Hill.

Our children, John and Jane with children Aaron and Seth, live in Regina. John works at the Co-op Refinery. Dr. Alayne, Dr. Lawrence Farries and children Marilla, Nolan, Paige and Orrin live in Red Deer where Alayne and Lawrence practice their medical specialties. Dinene teaches grade 1 in Camrose.

ANTHONY JOHN UDCHITZ

By John Udchitz

Tony Udchitz arrived in Canada from Belarus, Poland in June 1928 at the age of 27. His wife Maria and daughters Anne, Mary and Susie were left in Poland with the hope that he would send fare for them to join him in a year or so. His only son, John, was born two months after he left. Shortly after his arrival in Canada, the severe downturn in the world economy altered his plans considerably.

For the first couple of years in his new country, Tony worked hewing ties for the CP Railway, near Fernie, BC. He was fortunate when the depression struck, to be able to take up a homestead in the Laurel School area. His homestead lay between those of his neighbors John Romanchuk and John Urkevich. But it was a sad time for Tony, too, because immigration was at a virtual standstill during the depression, his family remained thousands of miles away.

In the Laurel School district, utilizing the power of his four strong oxen, he also hewed railway ties on property located northwest of the school. Tony had been in the Polish Cavalry, had hawk-like eyesight and was also an excellent marksman. These attributes and skills were used to help neighbors who had never handled a gun. Interdependence – people helping one another – meant the difference between survival and starvation during the hard years of the depression.

While working to clear the 10 acres of land necessary to get title to his property, Tony also sculptured tubs, bowls, churns and basins out of poplar wood. Nearly every home in the area had at least one of Tony's hand-carved, practical utensils. He also built suitable accommodation for his family; a two-room log house, with an upstairs and at last, in 1938, he was able to send for them.

The family arrived at Rocky Rapids on Dec. 21, 1938. Since ten years had passed since Tony's departure from Poland, John was ten years old when he first met his father. Anne, the eldest daughter was already married so did not come to Canada with the rest of the family. The evening after their arrival, Gus Schoen drove his sleigh over to take the family to the Christmas concert at Laurel School, introducing the kids to their soon-to-be classmates and their new Canadian culture. John remembers the concert sounding as if everyone was speaking with marbles in their mouths. But, oh my, they were given a mandarin orange after the concert! John also remembers how well off they were here compared to the conditions they had left in Poland, where there was often little food. It was like heaven to have white bread and sugar and an ample supply of wild meat. He remembers vividly how beautifully his parents danced together.

To support his family Tony ran a trapline on Sinkhole Creek, southwest of Drayton Valley for five years. Then in 1944, while trying to obtain a permit to cut railroad ties, a new plan was formed. The government official told him there was too much good timber on the Hystad property, west of Laurel School, to be used just for railroad ties, so the first sawmill in that locale was started. Dozens of men from Rocky Rapids and neighboring districts worked at the Udchitz sawmill during the winter months over the next years. Mrs. Udchitz often worked at the camp as well. Almost any oldtimer in the area can tell at least one colorful story about some incident at the Udchitz camp. For, although the work was hard and the hours long, the people who worked there had fun as well, on their time off.

Mary attended Laurel School for a couple of years, then married Prokop Rosadiuk and moved to a farm near Evansburg. Susie married Joe Rosadiuk, Prokop's nephew. John married Louise Smolski from the Round Valley district. The eldest sister, Anne, still lives in Belarus, Poland but has visited her siblings in Canada.

In 1950, Tony moved his sawmill operation to Water Valley, west of Cochrane, where he remained in business until he retired to Calgary. John and Louise also worked in the family business until they bought property near Evansburg, which they farmed for several years. After a farm accident John

obtained a degree in education and taught at Lindale School. Then he and Louise and another couple bought the hotel in Thorsby, where Louise continues to reside. John has been living in Calgary for several years.

PETE ULER

Submitted by Walter Turiak

Pete Uler immigrated to Canada from Czechoslovakia in 1929, with his brother in law, Mike Paccinda. He left his wife and family behind because he didn't have enough money for the ship tickets. In 1933, he homesteaded in the Violet Grove area, on quarter section NW 2-48-8-5, where he built a small house of hewed logs and plastered in with clay mixed with dry grass. He also built a small barn. He cleared a few acres of land by hand, bought two horses and some farm machinery. Pete worked in logging camps for a few years. He earned enough money for the ship tickets to bring his wife and family to Canada, but WWII started in September, 1939, so he sold his horses and machinery and left the area. Later he went to BC, and worked in a gold mine. After the end of the war, Pete went back to his homeland in Czechoslovakia.

LEONARD AND CAROL ULMER

Once upon a time (summer 1980) … a young family arrived in the Violet Grove area looking to establish a life for themselves. The couple, having married a decade earlier, left Saskatchewan to follow their dreams. After spending time in Yellowknife, NWT, Edson and district, they returned to Sask for a brief time. The economy being unchanged there, they ventured back to Alberta and eventually the acreage S.W. of Drayton Valley. Leonard once again joined Hudson Bay Oil and Gas at the Brazeau Gas Plant location. Carol left the employ of the Yellowhead School Division and contented herself with two small children and household and yard duties.

In time the acreage they purchased at SE 17-48-8 W5, Lot 2 would see changes. The mobile home was replaced by quonset and house. Trees were planted, fences and gardens established and periodically moved. But for the occasional hailstorm, gardens were always lush and bountiful. Animals of various descriptions would grace their acreage. Some years would see chickens and turkeys, or geese and ducks, others cattle. A milk cow became a family pet with numerous cats and a dog. Accommodations were provided for ostriches from 1992-1996.

The family 'took root'. Friendships developed as acreages around were developed. Candice began grade 1 in Drayton Valley the fall of 1980. She excelled in piano, enjoyed school and extracurricular activities (volleyball, yearbook, etc.) as well as soccer and softball. After graduating from FMHS in '92, she would later attend Lethbridge Community College (broadcasting), then on to Red Deer College (music). In the spring of 1997, she joined the workforce at CKBI radio in Prince Albert, Sask as a copywriter. There she met and married Duane Krip on May 22, 1999, and continues to teach and develop her love for music.

Ryan was totally the 'outdoors' child from the beginning. He preferred animals, nature and sports above all else, yet learned the piano and moved on to dreams with the school band until graduation. The remainder of his time was devoted to hockey and soccer as he moved through the minor leagues. Following graduation in '95, he joined the workforce with CE Franklin, and later joined Enerchem. The fall of 1999 would see him become a landowner just two miles east.

The years would fly by through the usual demands of making a living and raising a family, what with concerts, recitals, deadlines, tournaments. As with everyone, hay-making, back-hoe/bob-cat work, gardening were always dependent on and at the mercy of the weather.

In 1987, Leonard would make a career change as he joined Pelican Spruce Mills, later to be Weyerhaeuser Canada. Carol's initial substitute teaching would be replaced in Dec. 1988 by the position of co-coordinator for the Drayton Valley Adult Literacy Society. She continued to give music lessons.

The family arriving here years ago certainly rose to the challenges and opportunities through church, home and work to do what was necessary to call this place "home". Bird watching now is through the windows as chick-a-dees and woodpeckers flock to the bird feeder. So much easier and a delight to watch!

Genealogy footnote: Leonard William (born Dec. 16, 1946) is the oldest son of William and Almena Ulmer of Neudorf, Sask. Carol May was born May 25, 1947, to Victor and Caroline Schick of Duff, Sask. Candice Leanne was born May 16, 1974 in Hinton, AB and Ryan Leonard Paul was born Aug 10, 1977 in Regina, SK.

MAY TUCKER URCHYSHYN

My life in the 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's to 79 in Drayton Valley. I was born in Drayton Valley in 1924. I remember when Drakes had a store and post office, a mile west of the present town now. Later on, Mr. and Mrs. Drake built a big store uptown and

had the post office there too. We thought it was a big store, but today it wouldn't look very big. Mr. and Mrs. Morraw had a store also and the school was across from both stores.

I was born on the farm that my brother Les Tucker lives on now. The horses and cows would pasture where the Weyerhauser mill is now. The school was a one-room. There was a large cloakroom at the end, where we hung our coats and left our lunches. It was so cold there, that our lunches would freeze and we had to put our bread on the old pot belly heater before we could eat it.

Our teacher had about 53 kids, from Grades one to eight. I would like to see the teacher handle the kids today. We must have been pretty darn good kids. We used to have fun with our bunch of kids that lived west of town. A couple of times a week we would play prisoner's base at Drake's corner, 1 mile west of town.

Main street in Drayton Valley, L to R – Gladys Hodley, Luella Morin, Evelyn Tucker holding Given Jeane, Irene Hystad holding her niece, Marlan Hystad, Buddy Mayher, Susie Hystad, Anna Peterson.

The families that lived west of town were the Hadleys, Mitchells, Hellyers, Kynochs, Hodges, Urchyshyns, Ericksons, Tuckers, Morins, Mastres, Guyons. I don't think I've missed anyone.

Christmas was always an exciting time.. We always had a school concert and Santa would come and give us a big bag of candy and an apple and an orange. I remember eating the orange peel first and save the orange for later. Santa never forgot to come to our home. Sometimes there wasn't very much, but we were all excited because we knew that a big dinner would be coming later. I could tell you the menu but I won't. It was never turkey: always duck or chicken.

Some of the families would take their turn and we would all go from house to house in January or February. There were the Jonzons, Topstads, Andersons and Tuckers. They were all such good cooks. Us kids would be all excited about it. We would all load up in the double sleigh box with lots of blankets and away we would go. The Anglican Church always had a Tableau at Christmas, so we had to do a lot of practicing for that. We always got a nice present and goodies for Christmas.

Mrs. J. Tucker with Clint Plotts on the horse

The winters were cold and long, so we were always happy to see spring and hear the meadowlarks sing. Then the summer holidays would come. It really wasn't a holiday, because we had to pick berries. I remember having to walk down to the Saskatchewan River to pick chokecherries and raspberries. It was a long walk down there and it seemed to be further coming back. In about the middle of August we would load up the wagon with food, blankets, a tent and lots of other supplies and head out across the Pembina River to pick blueberries. We would camp at 1st creek or 2nd creek. When we arrived we would get the tent up and get everything unpacked. Next, we would find a nice place for the bathroom, a nice smooth log and of course we always took the T. Eaton's catalogue with us. In the morning we would all run down to the creek with a towel and soap and get washed up for breakfast, which was always pancakes with blueberries. The last time I went picking was in 1939 or 40 and we ran out of food. Lizzy Jonzon and I walked out to Drayton Valley. That was the year that Swanny Jonzon had taken us out there, but he had to go home to do the harvesting. We had no way to get out except to walk out. They did get picked up the next day. Swanny went and got them. In the years to follow, people had cars and would drive out into the bush and pick berries.

Mrs. Tucker, Teddy Tucker, Lenora Jonzon, Lizzy Jonzon, May Tucker, betty Payne, Evelyn Tucker, Winnie Bills sitting in front, Johnny Bills, at the end – this was the nicest condo west of the Pembina – Blueberry picking about 1928.

Lenard Urchyshyn and his cousin Jerry Bills hauling in bales with Teddy the dog having a free ride

Harvest time was always a fun time if the weather was good. My sister, mother and I would cook for the threshers who were bachelors. It was a good feeling to get the cellar full of veggies and lots of jars filled with fruit, jams, pickles and sauerkraut. We also canned a lot of wild meat.

I remember going into Entwistle to my grandma and grandpa Greave's 50th wedding anniversary. I think is was in about 1930-31. We would travel as far as we could in one day and stay over at some friend's and continue the next day. It took two days to get to Entwistle. It was pretty exciting to hear the train whistle while we were there.

I remember when we got our first radio in 1936. We had to have two big batteries to play the radio. We listened to Hockey night in Canada, Ma Perkins, Pepper Young's and several other stories. My dad never missed the "news".

I married Nick Urchyshyn in 1945 and we had two children. Lenard lives in Drayton Valley. I have four grandchildren, Leslie, Greg, Doug and Paul and two great-grandchildren, Ashleigh and Nicholas.

From L to R – Jack Tucker and wife Violet, Carl Anderson and wife Rachel, Otto and Helen, Pete and Anna Anderson, Clarence and Martha Sjerdal, Ray and Agnes Plotts.

Nick Urchyshyn, Mrs. Tucker, Carl Ganski, Bohdon Urchyshyn, May Urchyshyn holding Lenard and Vallie

Patsy Mastre, Donna Mastre and Vallie Urchynshyn taken at Onley's logging camp

NICK URCHYSHYN

In the spring of 1931, we arrived in Drayton Valley in the back of a truck owned by Mr. Drake. We came to a homestead that dad homesteaded in 1929. We had a one-room shack with a dirt floor. The next three years were very grim for us. In the summer I went barefooted. One late fall the ground was frozen and I didn't have shoes and went to school barefooted. I would run as far as I could before putting my feet in my cap to warm them up and than run again for ½ a mile. My two brothers and I were the only kids to wear custom made clothes. Mom made our shirts out of flour sacks and our overalls out of white canvass. We were the only kids in school dressed in white.

Nick Urchyshyn helping with the harvest 1934

In 1933 we couldn't go to school anymore because we lived outside of the school district and there wasn't enough room in the school. After two years, the Board of Education ordered the school board to let us go back to school.

At the age of 16, I went to work in a logging camp for the next 14 years. In the meantime, in 1943, I started to court May Tucker and the following year I asked her if she would marry me. She said yes and on January 29, 1945 we were married. For our honeymoon we stayed in a shack we built in the logging camp. For the next three years we lived in camps. On December 9, 1945 we were blessed with a beautiful daughter and three years later with a son.

Nick and Bohdon Urchyshyn

In 1938, dad bought our first farm and fixed up a log barn into our first house. We had a few rough years while on the farm. In 1952 I bought an old truck with gravel box and went into business hauling gravel for Western Construction. I worked for them till 1954. I hauled freight to Drayton Valley till 1959. I sold the trucks and bought 2 school buses. I drove kids to and from school for the next 12 years. In 1971 I sold the buses and went into the ambulance business for the following 5 years. In 1974, I bought a welding shop and worked till 1979. I retired and we moved to Summerland, B.C. In the last eighteen years, I have enjoyed my golfing, gardening and all the fresh fruit.

Nick Urchyshyn and his mother, Pearl

JOHN AND HELENA URKEVICH

Written by Louise Urkewich, Anne Cherrington, Mary Edwards, Mike Urkevich, Violet Lang and Lena Kobylka

In 1927, John Urkevich and two cousins, Nick Urkewich and Fred Denisiuk decided to venture out for a new life, in a new country – Canada. John's wife Helena, and their two sons, Nick and Billy, stayed in Poland and waited for word when they too would go to Canada.

Helena Urkevich

Dad arrived in Crowsnest Pass and worked for a short time in the coal mines. This work was sparse, so he worked on the railroad. Around about 1929, John left to come to Drayton Valley to take out a homestead. He got the NE¼ 30 TWP 49 R7 W5. The first cabin was built out of round logs and a garden spot was cleared. In the first winter, Dad spent his time trapping for furs. They weren't worth much, but were so plentiful that it was good money in those days. It was nothing to shoot a hundred squirrels in a day and cut logs to build a bigger house too. The logs were hewed with a broad axe. Tony Udchitz and Nick Shimshuk spent the winter cutting logs and helped Dad build a four room house.

John Urkevich

The following year, Mom, Nick (age 9), and Billy (age 5), arrived from Poland. The family later increased by five more children – Anne, Mary, Mike, Violet, and Lena. Mrs. Mastre was midwife for every child. Then, in December 1938, Billy (age 12), came down with pneumonia and passed away.

When Mom came, we got chickens, some cows, and a horse. The winter feed was cut with a sythe in open meadows. There was about 40 acres cleared by hand with a bush axe which had a twisted head, the blade was flat to the ground with the handle up. On the poplar trees, the roots were cut so the wind would blow them down, then the trees were brought in for firewood. They would also ring bark the trees, and in a couple of years, they were dry and brought into the house for firewood.

Sawmill used to saw lumber used to build Urkevich house.

The horse machinery was bought, a one bottom breaking plow with a wood beam, a six foot disk, a hay mower, and a dump rake. The grain was cut with a scythe and hand tied with the grain straw, stooked and threshed by hand. When we got a binder, and the neighbours came to thresh, it was much easier. Dad went to help the neighbours too. The haying was hard work. The hay was handled two or three times before it was stacked. Mom and us kids were on the stack, tramping the hay down as dad unloaded the rack. By this time, there were about fourteen milk cows and twelve horses.

We remember the turkeys well, as they had to be plucked clean on Saturday and Sunday, then off to Edmonton on Monday. Dad also raised work horses, broke them to work, and sold them. It was lots of work. I think this is where the saying came from "No rest for the wicked". Other than regular chores, there was usually no work done on Sundays. Mom and Dad often went visiting. Sometimes we went with them, but usually stayed home and played. One time, Mom told Anne and Mary to put the chicken in the oven, and the door was left open. The dog got the chicken, so Anne and Mary had to quickly kill and clean another one to put in the oven.

We attended Laurel School which was a one room, one teacher school that ranged from grades one to eight. Anne and Mary went to Drayton Valley for grades nine and ten, then to Tomahawk for eleven and twelve. The rest were lucky as Drayton Valley finally got a high school.

Back, L to R, Mary, Anne. Middle, L to R, Lena, Violet. Bottom, Mike Urkevich

There are many good memories such as spending the evening listening to Hockey Night In Canada with Foster Hewitt. Our favourite team was the Toronto Maple Leafs. This was indeed a treat because the radio battery had to last the whole year. We also remember gathering friends into groups and going berry picking. Mother would then can the fruit and make jam for the winter. We also enjoyed reading the Eaton's catalogue, sometimes sending for material that mother sewed into dresses or shirts for us. Then the catalogue was recycled, if you know what I mean. Mother also carded sheep's wool and spun it. Then she knitted our winter's supply of socks and mitts.

John Urkevich and son Mike gathering the hay

In the late fourties the changes started. The first tractor was bought, a 15-30 McCormick. Land was cleared with cats. "Waddells" did most of the clearing. The plans for a new house started. Cutting logs and sawing then into lumber, selling some to help with expenses of building the house which started in 1950. Nick and Mike helped build when they were home.

Dad and Mom bought a new Cockshutt 40 tractor and other machinery. In 1954, the oil boom started. Dad took jobs in town and helped build the first hotel in Drayton Valley. He was also the janitor there. Just as things were going good, Dad got sick. After a lengthy illness, he passed away in August 1957, and Mom passed away in September 1958.

LENA KOBYLKA (URKEVICH)

I am the youngest daughter of John and Helena Urkevich. After high school I went to Edmonton and

worked for the government. I met Edward Kobylka and we married in 1968. We have four children, all grown up, and two grandchildren. We have left Edmonton and retired on the Kobylka family farm near Devon.

MIKE URKEVICH

Mike was born July 27, 1936 to John and Helen Urkevich. The fifth child, and third son, he went to school at Laurel and Drayton Valley. Growing up he helped his parents on the farm. He helped to build their last house, the one we live in now.

In 1953 he went to work in the sawmills at Edson and for Udchitz mill in Watervalley. In 1957 he came home to work in the oil field and ran a cat at Evansburg. When his parents passed away, he took over the farm. In 1960, he met and married Lynne Lucas of Cochrane and they lived and worked on the farm. Now they have three children –

Michelle, Darren, and Christy. Michelle, Brian, and children live close by. Darren, Sandy, and their two boys live on the home place about one quarter mile from us. Darren and Sandy elk farm, the third generation to farm here. Christy, Clinton, and the three girls live in Mayerthorpe and also farm.

L to R, Nick and Mike Urkevich

NICK & LOUISE URKEVICH

Nick was the eldest child of John and Helena Urkevich. He helped his parents through the tough years to provide for the younger children by working with his father for many years in lumber camps as a sawyer.

In May, 1957, Nick married Louise Lang of Moon Lake, Alberta. In April, 1962, they bought a farm at Moon Lake. In order to supplement the farm income, Nick worked in the oilfield for many years. They raised five children, all who still live in the Drayton Valley/Moon Lake area. Upon retiring, Nick and Louise began the family catering and Farmers' Market business.

Front, Nick and Louise Urkevich, Middle Row, L to R, Shirley Ann, Marjorie, Shirley and Donna. Back Row, Roland, Larry and Doug

Even with Nick's passing away in February, 1998, Louise continues to live on the farm and to run the family business. Donna was born in 1958. She attends the Beehive Sheltered Workshop in Drayton Valley and lives with Lousie on the family farm. Shirley was born in 1961. She married Doug Westlund in January, 1981 and their children are, Derrick born October, 1986, Kaylene in March, 1989 and Dustin in July, 1992. The family resides in Drayton Valley. Doug is self-employed as a Consultant/Inspector for oilfield and pipeline work. All of their children presently attend Eldorado School.

Marjorie was born in 1964 and she married Larry Westlund in June, 1983. Their children are Lisa born August, 1985, Marci in January, 1988 and Sarah in June, 1991. The family shares the family home quarter with Louise. Larry is employed by the town of Drayton Valley. Marjorie intends to take over the family catering business upon Louse's retirement. Their children presently attend H.W. Pickup and Aurora schools.

Roland was born in 1966. He married Shirley

Ingersoll in July, 1985. Their children are Candice born January, 1984, Charlene born September, 1986 and Brittany in June, 1992 The family resides just a half mile from the home farm. Roland took over the family farm in 1989. He is presently employed as a driller for Precision Drilling Corp. The children attend H.W. Pickup and Aurora schools.

Nick and Louise Urkevich and grand children, L to R, In Front, Brittney, Dustin, Sarah. Middle Row, Kaylene, Nick and Louise. Back, Derrick, Lisa, Marci, Charlene. Very Back, Candice

Jeffery was born August, 1975. Jeffery was adopted by the Urkevich family in 1975. He is presently attending Lethbridge Community College in the Broadcasting and Journalism Program.

MIKE AND RUTH VELOSHEN

Written by Sharon (Veloshen) Gascon

Mike was born in Mundare, Alberta in April 1905. His family farmed in the area there and when he was 15 years old he decided to make his mark in life elsewhere. Doing whatever jobs he could, whether building railroad bridges in northern Alberta, or for homesteaders, he was always busy. He managed to acquire a fine horse named King, and away they went entertaining many with the fancy trick roping techniques he and his friend George Welsh learned. Eventually George and Olive Welsh settled in the Onoway area. At one point, in the Dunvagen area, he walked King across a river on a railway bridge. No small feat by any means.

As the time passed, Mike came into the Violet Grove-Pembina area and homesteaded NW 30-48-8-5 in about 1933. In November, 1936, he married

Mike Veloshen, horse King 1930

Ruth Clark. She was born in Olga, Saskatchewan in June, 1915, and with father Herb, a barber by trade, and family, they made their way to the Violet Grove area, where they homesteaded. Their home was just across the road north of where the post office was located. I remember mom and dad saying, that when they got married, they had $5 in their pocket and 160 acres of bush to their name. Times were very difficult for them as they had to clear the land all by hand with dad's horse, King. Mom said she even tied ropes around her waist to help pull trees over and stumps out.

In July, 1937, a son, Dale, was born. Now they packed the baby on their backs to the fields for the days work. The faithful dog, Pat, came to be a trusted household friend and babysitter. Of course, there was no power nor propane gas stoves, so children had to be trained not to play with matches for the famous coal oil or gas lamps. Neither were the wood cookstoves. One cold winter night when mom came in from milking 6 cows by hand, Dale was nowhere to be found. Mom called and asked, " What are you doing?". A reply from

Ruth Clark

under the kitchen table, "I maka macaroni 'uth". To her surprise, he had all the pots and pans out of the cupboard and busied himself by breaking up her large white knitting needles. The joys of a son!

Ruth Veloshen and baby Sharon

Then, in August, 1943, and during the war years, a daughter Sharon arrived. By this time Dale was 6 years old and informed mom, "She doesn't look like a baby sister to me, she is too bald headed". Because of the year, food and car gas were rationed and everyone needed coupons. We were quite fortunate living on the farm, since we had our own milk, cream and butter. Mom had a sister living in the U.S.A., so often we would receive a big box of clothing, toys, and always a big bag of sugar, a very precious commodity.

Within 3-4 years after I was born, dad worked in the Drayton Valley area for a farmer, Mr. Eric Turner. His farm was west, just across the road from the Weyerhaeuser mill. Dad would work there all week and walk the 13 miles home, stopping at Violet Grove Store for a bag of flour and carrying it home on his back, or for a box of apples. We treasured those apples for months, believe me. They were better than any gift money could buy.

Card parties at home and dances at the Dunnington Country School were community entertainment with local talent. Young and old danced, as children were all taught by their parents. When kiddies tired out, they'd climb up on the table piled high with coats and go to sleep. I remember going home from the dances in the moonlight hours of the

Mike Veloshen with son Dale about 1939, Titan tractor

morning, listening to the sleigh runners singing in the snow, and the snow sparkling like stars in the moonlight.

Sunday dinners at Grandma and Grandpa Clark's place at Violet Grove were very special. Seems grandma always knew what we kids liked, warm baking powder biscuits, chicken and dumplings.

Of course, even children had chores to do and help out. There were always trees to cut down to make fields bigger. We were paid 1¢ for every tree we ring barked. By the time I was six years old, I could do a pretty good job too, and had even learned to milk my first cow. The cats were never too far away for their squirts, too.

Because money was so scarce, as with all living out here and with quite a few families living in the area, the need for a postal contractor arose. Dad was accepted in 1949. His duties were to pick up mail at Pembina and Violet Grove post offices and take it to the Drayton Valley post office, a round trip of 27½ miles twice a week, for the grand sum of $511.12 per year! The roads were simply trails through the bush. No snowplows in the winter either. You cut and hauled the logs to fill the mud holes and shovel your way out or through snow drifts keeping warm in your caboose on the cutter by warmed rocks, which were heated the night before in the oven of the kitchen cookstove. Dad kept this job until 1955.

Another contractor, Billy Clark, came from Entwistle to Drayton, picked up the mail, took it back and from there sorted and sent it on to Edmonton.

Mike and Ruth Veloshen

Our school, Dunnington, was 3 miles one way from home with no neighbours along the way. We rode a horse to school and swam across the creek many times, when the bridge washed out from heavy rain. At one point during a cold winter, we had missed a week of school. The School Board insisted that we kids were expected to attend. However, after –20°F the horse was to remain at home. Dad said, "If it's too cold for my horse, it is too cold for my kids". There were about 20 children going there from grades 1-9, with one teacher for all. Often I would ride one of our farm work horses, Ranger, to school to pull out dad's Model A Ford mail truck through mud holes. I'd be getting out of school at night by the time he was coming home to pull him back home through the mud again. About 1948-49, mom acquired homestead at NW 29-48-8-5. We moved our log house from dad's farm to her farm.

Then came the talk of the oil wells to be drilled around the area. No one could envision what all would be involved. Then in 1953, it happened. People began moving into the area with nowhere to live. We had just managed to finish adding a 14x16 shell addition to our original log house so we turned it into a make shift lodge. We had 10 men from the discovery well drilling crew staying there and having meals and lunches. Their beds never cooled off; one bunch left and another came to sleep. There were fellows there from Cuba, Saskatchewan, and the U.S.A., all hoping to make some fast money.

Drayton Valley and Violet Grove became cities overnight. With no railroads or good roads, it was questionable at times how to even keep the grocery store shelves stocked. School rooms became crowded but provided fine opportunity for locals to practice their skills. Betty White, now Starling, became one of many such teachers.

School building on 50th Ave, Drayton Valley in 1954 – 55

In 1954, we were transferred to school in Violet Grove for one term, then to Drayton Valley for one term.In 1956, mom gained employment at a ladies wear shop, so we moved to town from the farm and dad had work at Cardium Supply (sand supplies for the oil wells). However, dad passed away in December 1956. We later sold the farm to Reg Hamilton, who still resides there. Mom remarried and lived in Drayton until her passing in 1983. She had previously sold her land to Dean and Dorothy Wolsey.

Dale is living in northern Alberta. I married in 1969 and have two daughters, Rosalie of Edmonton, Alberta and Sharlene and granddaughter Shara Lee of Red Deer, Alberta.

Looking back, I remember many difficult times for my parents, but also many happy ones. We as a family were able to meet and develop many friends and friendships, all of whom helped to make Drayton Valley our home.

B/A Station, Drayton Valley 1956

LEONAS & ANNA VENGELIAUSKAS

By Gladys Butler

Leonas Peter Vengeliauskas was born on February 20, 1899 in Subacious, Lithuania. He was the fourth son of Jan Vengeliauskas and his wife Clementina, nee: Balcevicuite. He had six brothers and one sister. They farmed near a village called Kievlenai in Lithuania where the family attended the Roman Catholic Church.

As a young boy, he fell from the roof of a building while trying to rescue a cat and because of a head injury he was unable to speak. He had special teachers come to his home to give him his education and after two years he was able to speak quite well.

Eventually he was called to join the army. After the war was over he came home, his jacket in shreds and his pack of tin containers full of bullet holes. Thanks to all of his mother's prayers he received only a scratch.

Leonas Vengeliauskas with the cap, Mr. Garside in the hat – breaking land in Rocky Rapids

One brother, Joseph, at the age of eighteen years, immigrated to Chicago, United States. Because of the situation in Lithuania and the wars Leonas decided to come to Canada in 1928 at the age of 29 years. His father Jan, raised a glass to wish his son good luck, knowing he would never see him again.

He travelled by ship to Halifax and then by train to Edmonton where he went to a fellow Lithuanian's home. From here, he went to St. Paul where he worked on a farm but did not like it there so he returned to Edmonton.

He obtained a job at Sid Palmar's farm in the Wimbleton district. About three months later, while operating a stump puller, he broke his right leg and spent the next nine months in the University Hospital. Colonel Newburn was a good doctor and Leonas left the hospital without a limp. He returned to the same farm to recuperate and for the next three years worked in that district.

In 1932 he sold his car for $10.00 and bought a homestead at Rocky Rapids, T.W.P. 50 Range 7. Upon clearing twenty acres of land within three years, he would have a clear title to one hundred sixty acres. He lived alone with his dog Rover.

There was an abundance of work to be done, clearing the land and pumping water by hand for the horses and cattle. He lost eight horses in two years to swamp fever. The only horse he could afford was an out-law. No one could handle her but she was in foal. She had a beautiful strawberry roan colt. She also succumbed to the fever and so Leonas fed the colt, named Frank, cows milk to save him. Those days horses were worth a lot of money.

Leonas was lonely, so when he found a girlfriend he wanted to marry her. The girl's father wanted Leonas to supply him lumber and a couple of cows before he married his daughter. Leonas refused. He then invited Rudolf Pede, for whom he had worked earlier and asked if there were any eligible young ladies available. Rudolf suggested Anna Wesenberg, August and Pauline Wesenberg's daughter. Anna had seen Leonas five years prior but could not communicate with Leonas because he couldn't speak English. Between the Pedes' and Ann's parents a "meeting" was set up for the couple to become acquainted. On July 14, 1935 the Wesenbergs had a house full of company when Rudolf and Martha Pede came with Leonas to visit with Anna. Anna was so excited that the visitors noticed, and in no time the company had left for home. Leonas and Anna went for a walk in her flower garden. Now Leonas was not one to come eighty miles on foot very often so he asked, "Anna, marry me or not, I have no time for courting? I cannot leave my farm." Anna said, "Yes". Two weeks later Leonas returned and they were married on July 31, 1935. Someone had to be found to play for the dance, which was held in the barn loft and food had to be prepared. A man went on horse back from friend to friend inviting guests to the wedding. Three days before the wedding day lightning struck the St. Paul's Lutheran Church and it burnt down to the ground. Anna and Leonas had the marriage ceremony on the lawn on a beautiful sunny day.

Three days after the wedding Anna and Leonas put all their furniture and belongings on a truck to move to the homestead. It started to rain and at Entwistle Leonas had to walk twenty miles to get the lumber wagon to take the new bride home. In Rocky Rapids, neighbours waited for the new bride. Their temporary home was a small bachelor's house until a new log house was completed. The newlyweds had just settled down for the night when an uninvited bunch of neighbours started a "Chivaree" with the blast of shot guns. Fun was had by all and the party went on until "the cows came home"!

After six months of marriage Anna became

pregnant. One day while on her way for supplies to Rocky Rapids, Anna lost control of the horses and was thrown from the wagon. Three days later she lost her baby girl after having been pregnant for only five months. Anna and Leonas were very heart broken about the loss of their child. About eight months later Anna nearly lost the second baby but because of good care from her loving husband the baby was saved. On July 1, 1937 Gladys Clementina was born. Two weeks later Leonas brother, Joseph and wife, Bertha, came for a visit by car from Chicago. There was great joy after not seeing his brother for twenty-two years.

In 1937, Anna bought a homestead too. They raised cattle, chickens, turkeys, sheep and always lots of horses to do all the field work. For additional income Anna made butter to sell and also baked bread for some of the neighbouring bachelors.

On September 20, 1939 another daughter was born. Lily Violet had blonde hair, blue eyes and brought joy to the family. On the morning of July 5, 1942 Lily went into violent convulsions. At this time is was believed that the shock of hearing the alarm clock was the cause. It was five o'clock that evening before they got her to the hospital in Edmonton. It was eighty miles to the nearest doctor and first they had to find someone with a car to drive Lily and her mother to Edmonton. At eleven o'clock that evening Lily passed away. She is buried at Drayton Valley.

Anna and Leonas Vengeliauskas

Because Anna married a foreigner, she lost her Canadian citizenship in 1935. Both Anna and Leonas received their Canadian citizenship on October 14, 1939. In March of 1943, Leonas and Anna bought the home place from Anna's mother and moved to Ellerslie. They sold their two homesteads and brought thirty head of cattle from the homestead to their new farm.

Leonas' brother Joseph, visited the family once again in 1950. With some money borrowed from his brother, Leonas had a new house built in 1951 with running water and central heating. A new electric stove was also installed. This house was a modern wonder at this time.

Lily Violet Vengeliauskas

On June 9, 1956 Gladys married John Butler and they farm with her parents. In the winter of 1956, Leonas and Anna went by bus to Florida to visit Leonas' brother for a two month holiday.

Leonas always enjoyed the life on the farm. He loved working the fields and watching everything grow. On August 5, 1961, Leonas was working under a swather when the jack slipped and the hitch fell on his leg. The following day he died from a blood clot. Great sadness now engulfed the family. He is buried in the Evergreen Memorial Gardens in Edmonton.

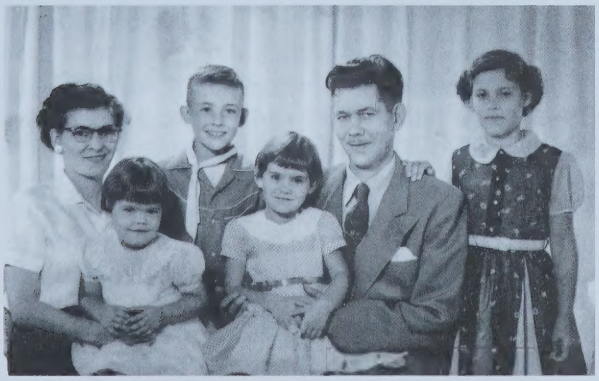
Two months later the Butler family moved back to the farm. A new one-bedroom house was built for

Anna. She lived here until a car accident in 1967. Since her accident the doctor found that she had muscular dystrophy. Because she was in a wheel chair she lived in a nursing home in Edmonton for the remaining years of her life. Anna died suddenly on April 2, 1982 at the age of seventy-three. She is buried beside her husband. Anna is survived by her only daughter Gladys Butler, four grandchildren; Evelyn Bennett, Ralph Butler, Sylvia Cunningham and Mark Butler and two great-grandchildren. Clint and Syvonna Bennett. Anna was always busy with her hands and she will be remembered by many for her beautiful handicrafts. We all worked hard and lived life to the fullest.

Sewing circle at Anna Venegeliauskas home, 1937

CHESTER AND RUBYROSE VIG

After serving overseas in World War II, for 3½ years, Chester returned to his home in the Bentley area and married Rubyrose Benson, in 1946. The newlyweds began their married life in Ponoka, where their three oldest children, Faythe, Harley and Karmyn, were born. In 1951, they moved to Nordegg, where Chester worked in the mines until they closed down. Their 4th child, Gaylene was born there. They chose to call Drayton Valley home in August of 1955, where their youngest child Kelly was born in 1963. Chester worked at the Alberta Liquor Control Board and the Drayton Valley Hotel for 10 years. He then worked for the Esso Bulk station for 10 years, before working for the Town of Drayton Valley, where he retired at the age of 65. Chester and Rubyrose are the proud grandparents of 14 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. All their children have made their homes in Drayton Valley.



Rubyrose, Harley, Chester, Faythe, Karmyn, Gaylene and Kelly Vig

BERNIE & GLADYS VON TETTENBORN

I was born and raised on a farm southwest of Rimbey, received my education at country schools in the Rimbey area, going on to high school at Concordia College in Edmonton. I graduated from Olds Agricultural School in 1954, with intentions of farming with my folks, but a poor crop that fall forced me to look for work. I had heard there was lots of work in Drayton Valley as an oil boom had developed there, so I drove to see on Nov. 7th (a Sunday). Monday I started looking and by noon had lined up four jobs. I took a job with Crown Lumber. It was +70 F that week, so I slept in my car, some were sleeping under loading docks and in culverts. Accommodations were hard to find as the hotel was just being built. After a week I quit that job, the manager saying if I wanted a job I could come back. I went looking in Edmonton and other places for more suitable , but finding none, I returned to Crown Lumber. This time I lived in the back of the office with the truck driver.

Bernie and Gladys Von Tettenborn

Crown Lumber had a delivery truck owned by Les James from Stettler. I purchased it in July 1955, as I was still working for the lumber company. I needed a driver and that is when I hired Mr. Herb Sams, a farmer from Tisdale, Sask. He had also had a crop failure so after seeding in the spring of 1955, he went out to Drayton Valley to find work. He built a skid shack at the back of the lumber yard and his wife joined him that fall. In Jan. 1956, their daughter Gladys came out to visit them, decided to stay and started working for Mr. Howard Pickup at the Valley Drug Store. Gladys and I were married August 10, 1957. I became manager of the lumber yard in March, 1958, and we moved into the company trailer north of the hotel.

In October, 1958, we purchased three quarters of land east of Round Hill, AB. This was to be an investment for the future and as we had no intention of farming, we rented out the land.

The lumber yard business increased and to keep up with the demands, I purchased two more flat deck trucks during 1957-58 to haul cement, lumber, timbers, and drilling mud. Having trucks proved successful , so I decided to venture into a different field and bought a new 1959 GMC truck tractor and started hauling cars from Oshawa to Edmonton and Calgary. In 1961, I put two more car hauling outfits on the road from Oshawa to Saskatoon, which proved to be a bad move. It was too far away to manage properly, and we were unable to secure reliable drivers. During the winter of 1962-63, Gladys and I moved to Saskatoon to recoup some of our losses and manage the business. We were able to do this, as Gladys' parents operated the trucking business in Drayton Valley, and I had quit working at the Lumber yard in the spring of 1963 to put all my efforts into the trucks. While we were trying new ventures, we also purchased a truck tractor in the spring of 1960 to haul fuel for H.J. Trimble & Sons from Edmonton to points throughout Alberta. In the fall of 1962, on a trip to Hay River, the truck ran down the Peace River hill, rolled and caught fire burning up 2.5 blocks of the town of Peace River. It took two and a half years to clear the Court system and with claims worth approximately $900,000. Needless to say, that ended our fuel hauling venture.

When I left the Lumber Yard, we bought 1.8 acres of land from Ken MacKenzie that was north of the Lumber yard and we built a house there. I still did the trucking for the Lumber yard plus two Drilling Mud companies, Magcobar and Millwhite. Magcobar was our main source of work and we were their agent in Drayton Valley for 12 years, 4 years in Whitecourt and 2 years in Saskatoon. The years in Whitecourt were busy and often our trucks were working back and forth from Drayton to Whitecourt. While in Whitecourt Garry Field, a driver who worked for us in Drayton Valley, moved there to manage the agency for two years. Then Glady's brother, Charlie, looked after it until it was closed down.

Potash Drilling in Saskatchewan was at its height around 1965, and as Magcobar wanted to establish a dealership in Saskatoon, they approached me. In the summer of 1965, I rigged up a new Tandem Dodge winch truck with a 100 barrel tank trailer, a special unit required to handle the specialized drilling mud and its storage facilities. We had a problem obtaining an operating authority in Saskatchewan, and had to pay another company 5% to operate under their license. Garry Field moved his family to Saskatoon to operate this unit and manage the agency. This work lasted two years. I then sold the tank trailer and moved the Tandem winch truck, rigged with a tandem oilfield float, up to High Level in December, 1966, with Garry Field looking after it. I sent another winch truck in Jan. 1967, and Garry's brother Winston drove this unit. I soon discovered I needed a second highboy trailer at High Level, so in August, 1967, I built a 36 foot single axle oilfield trailer, started with the back axle on Aug. 2nd and pulled it away, completed, Aug. 21st.

Bernie Von Tettenborn's 1953 Dodge truck with a load of cedar posts from Entwistle

Drilling work in Drayton Valley was slowing down by the fall of 1967, so I decided to rig up the third winch truck and trailer and moved my family to High Level for the winter. We loaded an 18 x 32 foot skid shack on the trailer, with Gladys driving the standard half ton which she had never driven before. That trip took us three days but we were not worried, as we had our bed and breakfast with us. That was an extremely cold winter, it dipped to –40 F for weeks, and even went to –60 F, making it hard to operate and keep trucks from breaking down. We had many harrowing experiences that winter due to

cold weather. The Trucking Co. we worked for went bankrupt, so it proved to be a non profit winter's work. In April, we sold the skid shack before leaving and bringing the trucks back to Drayton Valley.

By the winter of 1966-67 I knew I had too many high truck tractors to keep busy so decided to equip three of them with grain boxes, then took them to Spiritwood, Sask., and traded them for three farm tractors. This may have been my first inkling of what lay ahead. On our return from High Level we decided to seed the crop on our land at Round Hill. First off, I had to buy some machinery so I traded one of the tractors, a small IHC, with a front end loader for a John Deere R, a plow, a discer and a drill, and started to work. I traded another tractor for a 90 Massey combine in Biggar, Sask, and the third tractor with loader for a swather, cultivator, a harrow and another drill at Provost, AB. That first year of farming was a disaster. It was a dry year with no rain until July 12th. I turned the wheat crop down; the barley was late and froze, so had to be dried and was worth only 52 cents a bushel. Canola was the only crop we had and was worth $2.75 per bushel.

I started working for Anchor Construction in Drayton Valley in January, 1969, and worked there for four and a half years, taking time off spring and fall to continue farming. The older children were getting involved with Cadets and Guides and the activities were on weekends, thus they were less anxious to make the trip to see Dad. We moved to the farm in July, 1973, and immediately started building a new house, as we had to move into an older house that had no water or sewer. You can be sure we spent all our spare time on the construction and we finished and moved in July, 1975. We sold our holdings in Drayton Valley in 1975, thus ending 19 years of living there. When we started farming, we knew we needed more land so bought two quarters of land in the fall of 1969. After moving, we rented a section one half mile away with six hundred acres of good cultivated land. Grain prices improved drastically in 1973-74 so we could see where maybe we could even make a living at farming. Canola hit $7.50 a bushel and our oldest daughter, Doris swept out some granaries and filled up 4-5 sacks of grain, I hauled them to the elevator and charged her $1.00 per sack freight. She was upset but I felt it was a good lesson on finances.

With more land, I needed more power. In 1976, I put two John Deer "R" tractors together to pull large equipment. Then, in 1977, I joined two John Deer 830's together, and they worked well and were our main tractor for four years. We still have them in the shed and start them up every two or three years. We now have several Russian Belarus, 4 wheel drive tractors which are cheaper to buy and operate. We purchased more land in 1990 and 1993 and rented more land as our two sons are farming with us.

Over the years, I have purchased several antique tractors and vehicles which I hope to restore in my retirement years.

Gladys and I have had a few memorable trips. First, in 1959 when we drove to Fairbanks, Alaska. We went well prepared with spare tires and parts. We had no flat tires until we got back home, then one half hour later I had to go up town and came out to a flat tire. Our next trip was to Germany for a month in April, 1960, to visit relatives who we had never met. While in Europe, we rented a car and travelled through France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland and Belgium. We made a second trip to Europe in 1977, with Doris, Eric and Carmine. In 1984, we took a bus trip south to Disneyland, and in 1989, we travelled east along the coast ending in Florida, then back through numerous States to get home. We were gone five weeks. The most recent trip was to celebrate our 49th Wedding Anniversary in 1997 by retravelling our honeymoon route through Yellowstone Park and then east to the Black Hills in South Dakota, then north going home through Saskatchewan. Through the years we had many other trips in Canada and USA.

L-R, Carmine, Bernhard, Gladys, Bernie, Doris and Eric Von Tettenborn

All our children were born while we were living in Drayton Valley. Bernhard, born June 1959, attended school in Drayton Valley, Round Hill, Ryley and graduated from Camrose Lutheran College. He belonged to Cubs, Scouts and Air Cadets while in Drayton Valley. He also bowled and took music lessons. He was confirmed at Emmaus Lutheran Church. After moving to the farm, he con-

tinued with Air Cadets and music. Bernhard received his Auto Body Ticket before going back to the farm. He married Cheryl Fitzpatrick from Edmonton in 1984. They live one half mile from us on an acreage and have 3 boys, Bernhard (8), Dennis (6), and Clayton (2-1/2). They are buying and renting land.

Doris was born May, 1961. She attended school in Drayton Valley, Round Hill and graduated from Ryley. While in Drayton Valley she belonged to Brownies, Guides and a bowling league. She also took music lessons from Mrs. Pickup. She kept up with music and Guides after moving to Round Hill, earning the Canada Cord. She also taught Brownies and Guides in Ryley until 1982. She married Mike Hisey from Ryley, in 1979, and they have two sons, Adam (14) and Cory (6). They were divorced in 1994. She received her degree in Pharmacy from the University of Alberta in 1985. She and the boys live in Calgary where she is the pharmacy manager at a Co-op Store.

Walter was born in March, 1964, and died the same day.

Eric was born Dec, 1965. He started school in Drayton Valley, attended Round Hill for a couple of years, then Ryley and the Lutheran College in Outlook Sask. He joined Cubs and Scouts in Round Hill. He enjoyed and was involved in sports in high school. After graduation he received his ticket as a Heavy Duty Mechanic. A few years later he attended the University of Alberta and obtained his degree in Education. He married Melanie Serediak of Vegreville in 1992. They have two children, Jeffrey (2½) and Elyssa born Jan. 6, 1999. Melanie teaches school in Mannville and Eric works for the Department of Immigration in Vegreville. They are buying and renting land.

Carmine was born in Dec. 1968. She started school in Round Hill and from grades 3-12, attended Ryley. She was in Brownies, Guides and Sea Cadets which she was involved in for 5 years. Carmine attended NAIT, taking evening classes and received her Business Administration Accounting Diploma in 1997. She is currently working towards her CMA designation from Athabasca University. She married Wayne Shumlich of Edmonton in 1993, and they live in Sherwood Park. She works for the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission in the Forensic Audit Dept. and Wayne is a Delivery Supervisor. They have no children, just two cats.

Doris, Eric and Carmine were all confirmed in Trondhjem Lutheran Church in Round Hill.

Gladys and I keep busy chasing the countryside going to auction sales and square dancing for our recreation. I have and am also heavily involved in our community and church activities. With God's continued blessing we will have a good life on the farm for years to come.

HAROLD AND YVONNE WEBBER

Harold and Yvonne Webber moved into the Violet Grove area in 1975. We bought the Albert Grinde farm, one mile west of the old Campion Corner in the Dunnington area.

We ran up to one hundred commercial cow pairs on the NW I6 and NE I 7 and down on the south half of 6 as well, which we bought from the government after developing it as a lease. In the later years, we have been raising mainly Texas Longhorn cattle, enjoying watching them develop and finding it easier at calving time. We helped in the establishing of the Pembina Grazing reserve which we also used for a number of years. Many friends from D.V. and the community enjoyed the trail drive, moving cattle from the home place to the south pasture or back home in the fall. Branding in the spring, ended up being a church picnic with friends joining in to wrestle the calves, brand, eartag and give needles. Neighbors all joined in, some roping and dragging calves to the fire. A feast was enjoyed by all, some supplied by Yvonne but much was brought by the families who came for the fun.

Yvonne, Harold, Melanie and Zane Webber

We soon found out that it was necessary to have our own equipment for haying because of the limited number of dry days that were available.

I operated the county grader for the first years until Melodie, our daughter, started school. Yvonne went back teaching and I worked on the ranch. Zane, our son, who was four, had his first experience with the outhouse after our move until we had the trailer water hooked up and running. He took his schooling in Drayton Valley until Grade ten and completed high school in the Three Hills High

school. He is living in Calgary and is completing his training at the Foothills Hospital as a psychologist in family therapy.

Melodie was two months old when we moved. She took all her schooling here, plus three years of college in Edmonton at North American Baptist College. She has been working in the area at pipelining and odd jobs.

We have enjoyed the past twenty four years in the Drayton area and are now looking at retirement to an acreage, somewhere with a mountain view and room for friends and a couple of horses. Thank you for allowing me to live in your community these past years and for reading my long tale.

ROBERT WADDELL

Written by Kathleen Waddell

Robert Waddell was born in Onoway to Otis and Mabel Waddell. He was the fifth of seven children.

Robert attended school at Heatherdown, but at an early age, left school to learn to drive heavy equipment.

He did brush cutting for farmers in the Onoway, Evansburg, Wildwood and Drayton Valley districts. His brother Orvil followed with a breaking plow.

Robert married Kathleen Looker from Bilby in 1950. In 1951 our oldest daughter Louise was born in Edmonton. Elaine, our second daughter was born in 1954 in Edmonton. We lived in Onoway until the summer of 1954, when we moved to Drayton Valley. We had to be towed in by a cat a good part of the way as the roads were deep in mud.

Brush cutting days of 1949, Robert Waddell sitting on cat

We lived in a skid house in the yard which was called Waddell Bros yard. This was west of Drayton Valley across from the old Sea Board Office. I helped with the cooking in camp but developed polio at Christmas of 1954. The girls were looked after by Robert's parents. Robert brought me home every week end after I was out of quarantine to see the girls. I required a lot of care on Robert's part.

In 1961,we moved into a house south of where the old hospital was situated in Drayton Valley. This was a real treat with running water and a bathtub. In 1964 our son, Melvin, was born in the Drayton Valley hospital.

Robert Waddell moving a rig with his cat

In 1965, Robert formed Circle R. Construction and worked for the oil companies moving rigs and building locations. Before going north to Ft. St. John to work, Robert obtained his pilot's license. He worked in Ft. St. John for one year and then in Red Earth from 1965 to 1972. The following years he worked for the oil companies in Drayton Valley.

In 1971, Robert bought a farm and built a house on it. We moved onto the farm where I still reside, May 1975. Robert traveled to Japan buying and selling heavy equipment for several years. He made his last trip in 1985.

Louise completed grade twelve in Drayton Valley and then worked for McLeods. She married Wayne Chenery in 1972. They have a daughter named Carolyn and a son named David. Wayne was an R.C.M.P. and is now retired from the force-and is living in Summerland B.C. Wayne keeps himself busy restoring old cars. Louise is working as a Teacher's Aid in Penticton.

Elaine completed her schooling in Drayton Valley. She married Robert Starling in 1971. They had one son, Robert Edward. Elaine married John Olson in 1986. John was an R.C.M.P. and is now retired from the force. They are farming and raising cattle near Spruce Grove. Elaine is working as a telecom operator for the R.C.M.P. in Edmonton.

Melvin completed his schooling in Drayton Valley. He married Tina Chaffee in 1990. He works in the oil patch. Melvin enjoys judo and went over to Japan for one month and trained in the Koda Kan. He has a black belt in Judo. Tina is a teacher but works for the D.V. Association for Community Living. They live on the farm not far from where I live.

Robert was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease or A.L.S. in 1985. He lived 16 months after diagnosed.

He passed away in his home on October 12, 1986 at the age of 56.

L to R, Melvin, Elaine, Robert, Louise, Kathleen Waddell in front

PAUL AND LUCY (BRAY) WICKANDER

By Una Freund

After my father moved here and built his own log cabin he made some necessary furniture. There was no lumber, so he hewed them out of logs. Then he began the big project of clearing the and with an axe.

A few years later he married Lucy Bray, the eldest daughter of Andrew Bray. They Brays were the earliest settlers of the Rocky Rapids area, having settled there in 1907.

My parents worked very, very hard to clear and break and put into cultivation enough land so as to one day own it. They started with nothing, you might say, and had to eke out an existence from this land, and everyone who lived here knows how harsh it can be. My father used to say that they lived on "moose meat and potatoes". I must add with the occasional porcupine and rabbit stew as well.

As time passed my older siblings helped with the work of making the land arable by root and stone picking. They also did much of the work of providing that "giant" woodpile, so necessary in this harsh climate.

They gradually acquired a few livestock, so that they had their own milk, eggs and some meat. They butchered a cow or steer in winter, as the meat could be kept frozen. My mother butchered and cooked chickens in the summer. This being a daily task, besides all her other work of gardening; and with potatoes, it was acres, including strawberries as well. The root cellar was filled each fall with potatoes and vegetables. My mother also canned hundreds of quarts of fruit, mostly wild. Blueberries, saskatoons, raspberries, strawberries, cranberries, and anything the land produced went into sealers.

They were still "poor" but fared better than some during the depression. My parents were very innovative and developed a diversified way of making a living. They bought wool from a neighbour who raised sheep. It had to be washed, carded with hand carders and spun on a spinning wheel and prepared as yarn for knitting. Some of the yarn was dyed, particularly for knitting sweater.

Paul Wikander

Wikander family

During the long winters my mother did a lot of knitting, sewing and quilting. Those warm wool quilts were really necessary to keep the family warm during those long cold winters. She also knit socks, mittens, sweaters and scarves. I had some wool socks that reached almost to my hips. My father bought a knitting machine and patiently helped out by knitting socks and mitts. They sold quite a lot of socks and mitts to people in the area, particularly to men working in logging camps.

In the 30's my father turned the farming over to my brother Ralph, with the others assisting. He

began raising bees. He sold honey in the area for many years, up until his death in 1950.

One more thing that is worthy of mention is that my parents were the first "Bible Students" in the area, later known as "Jehovah's Witnesses". They shared their faith with others and our home was always open for Christian meetings. They were simple honest, hospitable and hard-working people who demonstrated "love of God" and "love of neighbour".

Life was till fairly primitive until a few years after oil was discovered. Up until then there were dirt roads, no electricity, running water, or other modern conveniences. I'm really thankful to have experienced some of the old pioneer life and see the transition to our modern times.

Paul Wikander as bee keeper in 1940's.

MEMORIES OF PEMBINA

Submitted by Helen Wiechert

Henry and Olga Wiechert and their three children – Erwin, Helmut and Hilda were the first family to move into the Pembina district in the fall of 1930.

Mail and groceries were packed in on their backs all the way from Drayton Valley. They traveled on paths through the bush, crossing creeks by Violet Grove and Les Wallace's place. They cut poplar trees down and laid them across the creeks. In Drayton Valley there was Bill Drake's store, the Red and White Café, the Community Hall and the Anglican Church. The settlement ended about Violet Grove, but the Wiecherts had more miles to go.

Roads were badly needed so Helmut and Erwin helped others to cut roads through to Drayton Valley. They used shovels and axes because no other equipment was available. Even when I, Helen Bennett, came to Pembina in 1941, the roads were terrible, especially after a rain. Mud and more mud.

More and more people came to the area and so a Post Office was needed. H.T. Deby opened the Pembina Post Office. A courier brought the mail to Drayton Valley once a week. First Matt Burnett, then Mike Veloshen. When I came, H.T. Deby was doing the job.

Olga Wiechert

Next a school was needed, so Louis Mattson donated an acre of his land and the men of the district brought in the logs. The school was soon built – a classroom and a kitchen. The school was also used as a community hall. A number of names were sent to the Dept. of Education. All the choices had already been chosen by some other districts. Finally the name Dunington was sent in and accepted. So now there was Dunington School.

In this school Mrs. Edith Deby became the first teacher. The school came under the supervision of Stony Plain School Division and I then was sent to be Dunington School's second teacher.

Erwin Wiechert, Hilda Wiechert McIntrye, Helmut, Olga Wiechert

In this school there was an oil barrel for a stove. The barrel was laid on its side and had four legs under it. A pail of water and a dipper were there for our drinking water and a basin and towel to wash and dry our hands. A gas lantern was our light, but this was only used in the evenings when a social event was held in the school. In January and February school started at 9:30 am – that was to help us use the daylight hours. The desks were hand-made by Johan Grande. There was the seat with a drawer under it and the desk in front of you, the most comfortable desks I ever sat in.

Helmut Weichert and Louis Mattson

Then, of course, there was a path to those two little houses outside. There were the Halloween pranksters' favorite trick – tip those two houses over.

A small barn was built back of the school. Eileen Litke and her brother came to school on horseback. Later Don Hill brought his sisters to school by horse and buggy.

To call the children to class I had a small hand bell. When I retired, the Edson School Division presented me with a similar hand bell.

Stony Plain School Division decided to stucco the school the next fall. This helped to keep the school warmer.

The first year I was there, Hilda Wiechert was the janitor. Don Hill took on the job after that. What a terrible job – trying to keep the fire going when the logs had to stew and dry out before they would burn.

A horse made by the Dunington school children at recess

There were no reading books for the children so I wrote to the University of Alberta. I gave the children's ages and grades. Each month the University sent out to the Dunington School a large tin suitcase full of books. I would send one box back and then get a new one. It worked quite well.

Christmas was coming and so a concert was in order. At the concert a gift was given to every child in the district, no matter how young. So to raise money to buy these gifts, I put on a Halloween Masquerade Dance. Blossom Barkley went as a witch and I went as her back cat. Bert Barkley went as the devil and Douglas Barkley went as a bat. Bert Barkley made Blossom the best witches' broom there ever was. Blossom and I rode the broom for the first dance. It was all for fun and everyone had a good time.

Helmut, Myttie, Hilda Wiechert, Larry Vickery, Louis Mattson, underwear is frozen stiff on the line

For the concert, a stage had to be built. The men of the district obligingly made that. Then sheets were used for curtains. Dave Glen played Santa Claus that year. A good time was had by all.

There was no TV or theatres to give us entertainment so we made our own. There was a dance at some school, or a whist drive almost every Friday night. If there were none of these, a house party was organized. Ab Downey was one of our fiddlers but Erwin Wiechert often helped out.

The dances at the various schools were of a variety – just a dance, a basket or box social where the ladies brought their lunch in a fancy box and it was auctioned off to the men, pie social was again in a fancy box and auctioned off. Then of course there were wedding dances. The hat was passed around and the collection was given to the happy couple. We all looked forward to these events.

The Anglican Church was in Drayton Valley where the deaconess, Miss Sybil Grove and district nurse Barbara Whittaker lived. Reverend Elkins came from Entwistle, Alberta. The three of them came to Dunington School to hold church services.

The ladies of Pembina organized a ladies club. During the war years many mitts, socks and scarves were knitted by the ladies and sent to the soldiers. Quilts were made and raffled off. The money taken in was used to buy the necessary wool. The ladies enjoyed their time together over a cup of coffee and a homemade cake.

Back Row, Larry Vickery, Allan Deby, Don MacCallum, Doug Kermode, Irene Thompson, Pauline Harris, Ethel Dunington. Front Row – Margaret Dunington, Evelyn Kermode, Francis Thompson, Audrey Deby, Vivian Storing, Georgina Kermode

In the summer time, picnics were organized and we all made our way down to the Pembina River. Some came by horseback and others by wagon. It was fun meeting our friends and being outdoors in the sunshine.

Everybody grew a garden and there were moose or deer or partridges for meat. Wild strawberries, raspberries for the picking in the summer, cranberries and blueberries in the fall. Flour, salt and sugar had to be bought so money was needed. Some men hunted squirrels. Helmut Wiechert did and became a very good shot. He got five cents a skin, of which he gave his sister Hilda one cent a skin to help him skin and stretch the skin and he paid one cent for each bullet, leaving him three cents a pelt if the squirrel was shot in the eye. Helmut Wiechert bought a sawmill and sawed the timber on the Wiechert property. This gave employment to many men in the district.

When I came to the Pembina district in 1941, there were two stores in Violet Grove. Ernie and Vi Forsyth had one store and Mr. & Mrs. Bill Appel had the other store. Groceries were now easier to get. A freight truck came into Violet Grove every Sunday.

Pauline Harris

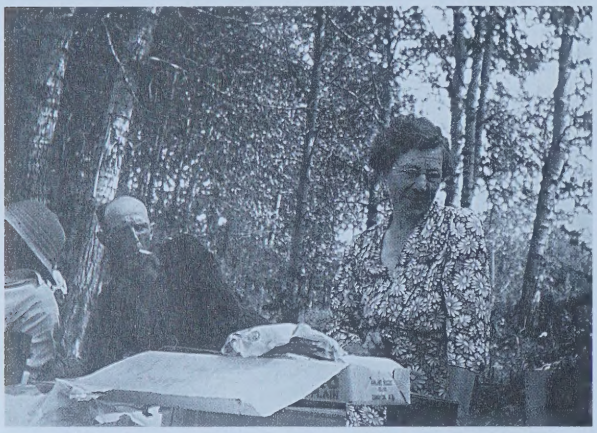
Helmut worked in some small sawmills that had started. He became very good at juggling or throwing an axe. One time Helmut went to Art McLachlan's camp to collect some back wages. It was noon hour. After lunch when the men went back to work, there were no axes. The workers reported the missing axes. Remember, Helmut passed through here. Sure enough, there were their axes.

Helmut Wiechert and I were married December 27, 1943. The following spring we built a barn on our property. We then bought a thousand Leghorn chicks. The first and only chicken ranch in Pembina. The chicken feed came into Violet Grove by freight truck and the eggs went out each Sunday.

Those were tough times by today's standards, but we managed and have fond memories of all the friends of Pembina and the Dunington School District.

Friends and neighbors of the Wiechert family:
Dave and Lou Glen
Danny McDonald
Helmer and Doris Johnson
Fritz and Augusta Joesting
Walter Harris and sister Pauline
Henry and Edith Deby
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Storing
Grandpa and Mrs. Storing
Mrs. & Mrs. Roy Thompson
Lil and Bill Stairs

Ab Downey
Clint Vickery and his boys Walter and Larry
Bill McCallum
Bert and Blossom Barkley
Jack and Alice Matheson
Slim Matheson
Henry and Stella Dunington
Clarence and Mary Dunington
Mrs. & Mrs. Ed Kermode
Mr. U& Mrs. Kermode
Mr. & Mrs. W. Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Hill
Mr. & Mrs. Freeman Hill
Mrs. & Mrs. Albert Stodalsvoll
Leif and Margaret Stordalsvoll



Picnic on the Pembina River – Freeman Hill, Mrs. Wallace

Picnic on the Pembina River – Myttie, Mrs. Glen, Walter Harris, Edith Swap, Mary Duninginton, Blossom Barkley, Helen Wiechert, Adolpj Landsiedel, Bert Barkley, Allen Deby

Otto and Olle Stordalsvoll
Ole Grotte
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Veloshen
Mrs. & Mrs. Badick
William and Georgia Wallschlager
Louis Mattson
Les Wallace and Mrs. Wallace
Elmer Lawrence
Peter Gregerson
Matt and Agatha Burnett
Ernie & Violet Forsyth
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Appel
Cal & Jessie Bartlett
Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Landsiedel

Bill MacCallum

Mrs. Appel and Billy

Helen and Helmet Wiechert

Lil Stairs and son

Bert Barkley

Blossom Barkley, Mrs. Wallace, Grandma, Glen and Walter Harris

Mary and Billy Dunnington

Margaret, Ethel with Billy and Stan Dunnington

Mrs. Kermode, Blossom Wiechert, Georgina Wiechert

BRIAN AND CLAUDETTER WINDER

Brian was born in Tofield, Alberta, April 15, 1946. Brian attended school in Spilstead and Tofield. He left home at the age of 15 to work in the oilfield. In 1964 he met Claudette Ouellette who was born in St. Paul, Alberta February 27, 1948. Claudette attended school in St. Lina, Tofield and Wetaskiwin. They married on February 27, 1967 and lived in Edmonton. Brian then left the oilfield for a short period and worked at various jobs in Edmonton and Claudette worked for Swifts Packing plant. On January 7, 1968 their first child, Roxanne Lynn, was born.

As oilfield work gets in a man's blood, Brian returned to the patch in fox Creek and worked for Baldwin & Knoll. In 1968, Brian came to Drayton Valley to work for BK Wardin Well Servicing. There were few to no places to rent at that time. In September of 1968, Brian was able to find a place and move his family to Drayton Valley – which Claudette thought was very close to the end of the world! As friendly as Drayton is, within days they met and made very good friends. On November 8, 1970 their second daughter, Joanne Lenora was born. Now was the time to look for a bigger home than the basement suite, so they moved to a house from Amoco D lease to the edge of town in Drayton Valley.

Back, L-R, Brian Winder, Garrett Wilkie, Pat Mulgrew, Kevin Houle. Seated, Claudette Winder, Leanne Wilkie, Shawnay Mulgrew, Roxanne Mulgrew, Joanne Houle, Kassidy Houle. On ground, Terrence Mulgrew.

On January 14, 1974 their third daughter, Leanne Claudette, was born. In those days you would get so much snow in Drayton that Claudette's brother would come and clean the driveway with his backhoe and make big hills for the children to play on and toboggan down.

In 1980, Brian and Claudette started their own business, Brandette Well Servicing Ltd., which consisted of one rig and five men. Brian and Claudette worked in the small office and of course with the little worry of "Are we doing the right thing?". It wasn't long before they purchased Range Well Servicing, and then owned three rigs.

In 1982, they seriously thought of moving the business to the States, as the oil economy fell pretty low, but the children were very disappointed and very much against a move. As luck would have it, Drayton was very good to them and they were able to stay right where everyone would be happy.

Over the years business got better and they added more rigs to their fleet. There were busy times and slow times but they managed to hang in there. By 2000 they had 17 rigs and very much appreciated employees, some of who had been with them since day one. Brian got involved in CAODC and became chairman of the Service Rig Division. Claudette belongs to the Oilwives Club of Drayton Valley which in the early years was such a thankful and enjoyable evening as Brian worked very long hours and it was so nice to be able to get out of the house for dinner and meet new friends. Claudette also spent a few years on the executive and is still in the club having been there for 30 years. Claudette also kept busy on the road driving the children to the various organizations they were involved in including, Gymnastics, figure skating, dance and ball. When July hit, the camper got packed and Claudette, the girls and friends were parked at a lake and campled for the summer holidays with Brian visiting whenever possible.

Brian also became involved with the Oilmen's and is now president of the organization. In 1993 they held a sports Charity Auction with the proceeds going to MS and Diabetes research. It went over very well, so they held several more raising in excess of $150,000.

On June 29, 1991 their family began to grow – they inherited a son-in-law. Roxanne married Pat Mulgrew of Drayton Valley. They resided in Red Deer and moved back to Drayton Valley in 1993. On June 29, 1993 Claudette and Brian became proud grandparents and welcomed their first grandchild, Terence Patrick. On November 3, 1995 their second grandchild, Shawney Bryanne, was born.

Joanne married Kevin Houle of Calgary on May 16, 1998 then on August 8, 1999 their third grandchild, Kassidy Noel, was born. They reside in Spruce Grove.

Leanne married Garrett Wilke of Tomahawk on July 20, 1996 and they also reside in Spruce Grove.

CLIFF AND AUDREY WHITELOCK

With the construction of the North Saskatchewan River Bridge and the connection of what is now Highways 22 and 39, a whole new world was opened to residents east of Drayton Valley. We were married July 12, 1958, and spent the first few weeks of married life in Buck Creek and shortly after, we moved to Cynthia where Cliff began work as a battery operator for Cities Service. In 1962, we purchased the S½ of 19-48-8-W5 from Otto Ganske and moved to the farm. Later we purchased the NE 19-48-8-W5 at a Government Land Sale and in 1974, purchased the SE 19-48-7-W5 from Andrew Wickander.

We lived in the original house built by the Deby family until 1986 when we moved into our new house. While living at Cynthia, Cliff leased a ¼ of Government land and caught sixty five head of wild horses. He broke and sold most of these horses and in 1961, purchased an Appaloosa Stallion and began raising horses. In 1965 we purchased our first American Quarter horses. Our first registered horses came from the Ken Paget Ranch and the Jerry D'Arcy Ranch. Some of the stallions we owned were Count Kilobar, Limdeck, Better Believeit, Moon Deck Jr., Count The Kats.

These stallions all produced offspring who earned their Register of Merit. Moon Deck Jr. held the track record at Portland Meadows. Leanne, sired by Limdeck, holds a track record at Medicine Hat. Count The Kats has offspring that have qualified for

Curtis, Cliff, Janice and Audrey Whitleock

the World Champion Quarter Horse Show. In 1997 we sold four head of Count The Kats offspring to Amanda Taylor of Dallas, Texas. As of today Bunny Bid A Deck is our main herd sire. We raced our horse on the B circuit tracks for several years, and now we have two head in training. All the time we were raising horses we also were building a cow herd.

We started with a few head of Hereford cows. In 1966, we sold them and purchased Black Angus cows from Albert and Edith Grinde, Les Tucker and Ed Goddard. When the first exotic cattle were imported, Cliff took an A.I. course and we began crossbreeding, using mainly Limousin and Simmental sires. Today, we use Limousin sires on our crossbred herd of cows. In 1994, the Alberta Limousin Association awarded us the Commercial Breeder of the year award. Also, in 1994, we showed the Champion Pen of four heifers at the Drayton Valley Livestock Show. We have also received the Farm Family Award from the Drayton Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Pioneers In Agriculture Certificate from the M.D. of Brazeau.

We raised a family of two: Janice Lynn, born November 28, 1960 and Curtis Clifford born October 27, 1965. Janice and Curtis were both graduates of Frank Maddock High School. Janice played girls' hockey and was an active member of the school band in grades seven through twelve. Today, she is still involved in music, taking piano and vocal lessons. Janice married Danny Kos on February 26, 1983. They have two girls Cassie, born October 24, 1983, and Danelle born October 16, 1986. Cassie and Danelle take piano lessons and play girls' soccer. Janice and Danny own Kos Trucking Ltd.

Curtis was active in the Drayton Valley Air Cadets. He attended summer camps at Penhold, Alberta, and Borden, Ontario. Curtis graduated from Red Deer College in 1989. Curtis and Coral live in Edmonton with their families, Brandon born March 25, 1989, Tilla born February 12, 1991, Angelina born May 2, 1991, and Paul, born September 20, 1988. He is currently involved with Karate training and has earned his blue belt. Curtis is employed in the computer programming field in Edmonton.

Audrey, second daughter of Edgar And Lela Goddard, was born January 2, 1941, and was raised in the Lindale area. She attended school at Onion Creek until the school was closed and students were bussed to Lindale. She graduated from Calmar High School in 1958. Clubs and associations that Audrey has been involved with are Lariat Gymkhana Club, director for the Quarter Horse Racing Association of Alberta, and director for Pembina Grazing Association. She is presently involved with the Drayton Valley Agricultural Society, livestock show committee and bench fair committee. For several years she collected rain samples for Alberta Environment until West Central Airshed Monitoring Sites were in operation.

Cliff, the eldest son of Frank and Grace Whitelock was born November 16, 1930, at Hardisty, Alberta. He lived at Hardisty on the family farm until 1939. The Frank Whitelock family was one of the casualties of the 1930's depression. After several crop failures due to drought and hail, the family packed their belongings, leaving three quarters of land, and moved to the Saskatoon Valley area. Farm machinery was loaded on a wagon and rack pulled by four head of horses and driven by Pete Hernberg. A wagon and rack loaded with household goods and camping equipment was pulled by a team of horses driven by Sally Hernberg. The livestock, consisting of 280 head of sheep, 26 head of horses and 4 cows were trailed from 22 miles south of Hardisty to five miles North West of Alsike. This trip took approximately two weeks. It was Cliff's job, with the help of his Shetland pony "Paddy", to herd the loose horses.

Associations and Clubs Cliff has been involved with are Lariat Gymkhana, Pembina Area Sour Gas Exposures Group, Pembina Grazing Reserve, Drayton Valley Rural Electrification Association, Highway 620 Advocates, Pembina Agricultural Protection Association and West Central Airshed Monitoring Society. Cliff worked for 30 years in the oil industry as a contract battery operator for Cities Service, Texaco Canada, and Western Decalta.

HARRY (SCOTTY) AND JEAN (ROBERTS) WHYTE
MINNIE (DENIM) WHYTE

Written by Betty Starling

Harry Whyte, known as Scotty by most people, was born in Brechin, Scotland, December 3,1902. He immigrated to Canada in 1926, settling first in the Sedgewick area where he worked for local farmers. He later filed on a homestead in the Drayton Valley area S.E.6-49-7-W5th.

Jean Whyte (Roberts) was born near Dundee, Scotland and came to Sedgewick to marry Harry. She worked as a cook at Government House in Edmonton, the home of the Lieutenant Governor, now the Alberta Museum.

On September 26, 1934 a daughter was born to Harry and Jean at the University Hospital, Elizabeth Jessie (Betty). Jean took ill and returned to Scotland thirteen months after the birth of her daughter. After she regained her health she found employment in

Scotland. She served in the forces during World War II and eventually moved to London, England where she once again was employed as a cook working in St. James Place for Sir Michael Adair, one of the Queen's secretaries. Jean passed away in 1959.

Betty went to live with Mrs. Magdaline Jonzon and continued to live there with Grandma Jonzon and her daughter Nellie until the winter of 1938. At that time Harry had gotten a house keeper, Minnie Reid Chalmers.

Minnie Reid Chalmers (Denim) was born near Ayr, Scotland in June, 1895. She had married Alec Chalmers. Alec had passed away and Minnie immigrated to Canada to stay with her mother Grace Denim, also widowed. They lived on the N.E. 25-48-7-W5th along with Minnie's two bachelor brothers Sam and Andy. This land is now owned by Bill and Velma Turtiak.

Minnie worked to provide a home for Harry and Betty. Like other women of this area she planted a garden and took off the produce. She then canned the produce from the garden as well as wild meat. Milking cows, making bread, butter and cheese were all part of a days work. She joined into the activities of the community, became a member of the Anglican Church and the Anglican Church Women. She was a Life Member of the A.C.W.

Two new houses were built on the property and she worked to make them comfortable homes. (1944 and 1946) Minnie and Harry were married in 1960. Minnie passed away in May of 1964 at the age of 69.

After settling on his homestead, Scotty continued to work clearing the land for crops of grain and hay. He had cattle, some milk cows, pigs and chickens. He worked for a time with. his team of horses hauling water for the steamer at Feero's Lumber Camp just a mile west of his farm. Winters were often spent working in lumber camps to obtain money for the necessities of life.

In 1946 Scotty bought a quarter section from Iner Nordal (SW5-49-7-W5th). Iner, Lizzie (Jonzon) and their three children Arlene, Melvin, and Denver moved to New Westminster, B.C. This quarter had been owned by Fred Billings previous to the Nordals.

Scotty continued to farm his land until oil was discovered in Drayton Valley area in 1953. At that time he gained employment, clearing locations with a company owned by James Wright of Edmonton. He became a foreman for . Wright and worked for Location Clearing until the late sixties. After retirement he made one trip back to Scotland to visit with his brother George and sister Amy. They made one trip from Scotland to holiday with Scotty. Scotty passed away in July, 1984 at the age of 81.

In 1957, daughter Betty married Jack Starling. They had three children David, Maureen, and Wayne. David Starling married Kelly Vig. David and Kelly have three sons, Lane, Cole and Chase and live on the S.E.6-49-W5th.

Maureen married Bob Mair and the Mair's have two sons, Kyle and Matthew. This family live in Edmonton.

Wayne Starling has a home in Drayton Valley & presently travels back and forth to Yeman where he is employed.

GLEN AND ESTELLA WICKSTROM

As narrated to Eleanor Pickup

Estella's mother Annie and father Jacob Madiuk both came from Poland. They were married in Leduc and homesteaded near Thorsby. Their first house was a two storey frame building that was home to ten children until the house was destroyed by fire. The second home was a big building with a large kitchen; living and dining room combined; two bedrooms on the ground floor and three bedrooms upstairs. It is interesting to know this house is still standing in the town of Thorsby.

Estella was the fourth youngest. She and her sisters and brothers all received their education at the Thorsby school. At the end of her schooling she went to work at the post office and telephone office and worked there for eight years. (Her father was the first Post Master.)

Glen and Estilla Wickstrom

Glen's mother Hulda (Lindgren) and father Sigi were married in Sweden and had a family of four in their native land. Sigi left Sweden and travelled to the United States. He spent some time in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He went back home to get Hulda and his four children; then immigrated to Canada and settled at Buford, Alberta, now known as Glen Park. The Wickstrom family lived nine miles from Thorsby in a small log house with a large room upstairs, where the older four boys and other new Canadians slept.

The first school was built at Centre Lodge, eight miles south of Thorsby. Glen was eight years old. He walked two miles to attend that country school. The building is still standing and is used as a Community Centre. Glen helped his folks with the farm after quitting school and in winter did commercial fishing.

1942 the Second World War called him and he joined the Army in Edmonton and in July of that year was sent overseas to Surrey, England. In 1943 he saw the Invasion of Sicily, in 1945 the Italian Campaign and went to Holland until the end of the War, arriving back home in Thorsby in November of that year.

Any better place to meet your future wife than at the post office? There he met Estella and the romance continued for three or four years. They were married in 1950 in Edmonton and honeymooned in Banff.

Glen and Estilla Wickstrom, Amber, Clayton, and Brian

Glen had gone into the fur business at Sand Holm Beach raising mink. They rented their first home there and later built a house at Pigeon Lake, where their two sons were born. In 1956 Glen came to Drayton Valley looking for work in the oil fields and was employed by Stanolind Oil, later Pan American and still later to what is known today as Amoco Canada.

Three years later Estella moved the family to Drayton Valley to "G" Lease. While living at the camp a third child joined the family, a daughter, Amber. In 1970 the Wickstroms bought a house in Drayton Valley where they still reside.

Son Clayton married Brenda Mason, Amber married Kevin Krynowsky, an engineer with Anderson Explorations. Both families live in Calgary. Glen and Estella are grandparents to Amber's two daughters, Cayley and Sienne. Brian has made his home in our town.

RAYMOND AND MARGARET (PEGGY) WIETING

Written by Peggy (Bills) Wieting

Raymond Wieting was born in Edmonton, Alberta. He is the eldest son of Stephen and Flora Wieting. He grew up near Alsike, Alberta, and attended school at Breton and Warburg. He grew up on the farm where he learned to milk cows, feed pigs, stack hay and help with threshing. He enjoyed the 4-H club, fishing and swimming in Sardine Lake. During the summer he worked for the Don Cormie Ranch at Tomahawk as a welder and swather. He also worked for his uncle Herman Wieting as a carpenter's helper and gained a lot of valuable experience.

After finishing high school, he worked for C.N. and in the office for George Weston Wholesale in Edmonton. He then went to work on the service rigs for Baldwin and Knoll and Peter Bawdin Drilling. On November 12, 1968, he was hired on with Pan American Petroleum (now Amoco) and has worked there for 29 years, to date.

I was born at the McDowell home at Round Valley (half-way between Rocky Rapids and Moon Lake) on the way to the hospital in Edmonton. I was delivered into the world by my grandmother, Violet Tucker. My parents are Margaret (Jenkins) Bills and Daniel Bills. My first school teacher was Mrs. Deby, who taught grades 1-4 and then Mrs. Law, who taught grades 5-9. I had 2½ miles to get to school and either walked or rode my trusty horse. When it was very cold my brother Billy and I would stay with my grandparents (Violet and Jack Tucker) in town. They owned the Variety Store and Post Office which was situated were the Saan store is now.

Growing up on the farm and being the only daughter, I spent part of my time doing household chores and caring for younger brothers and the house, while my mother and dad were doing the farm chores. I never did learn how to milk a cow and was always afraid of the horses.

Everything began to change rapidly with the "Discovery Well" in 1953. Strangers began moving in from everywhere and there were trailers and skid shacks popping up all over with very little planning. The schools were overcrowded and in chaos. We went to school in the local churches and sometimes only half days. There was also a shortage of teachers – nobody wanted to teach in Drayton Valley in those days. Schoolhouses were moved in from surrounding areas until more schools could be built. When I was in grade 7 we moved into town which made me very happy. We were now close to the school and my friends. There was a skating rink right across from our house at the Rotary Park and we enjoyed many hours there.

I remember in Grade 9, our classroom was in the basement of the old school (at the corner of 50th and 50th) sitting next to the furnace and Olie Kupchenko was our teacher. I went to Edmonton in Grade 12 and attended Alberta College and took a secretarial course there the following year. My first job was in the office at The Bay in Drayton Valley. The next year I went to work for Pan American Petroleum (now Amoco) and later worked in Edmonton for Cdn. Bechtel.

Ray and I were married in Edmonton on February 15, 1969. We lived in the Pembina Manor Apts., when we were first married. Our daughter Melanie Dawn was born July 5, 1969 in the old Drayton Valley Hospital and was the first baby delivered by Dr. Cookson. Melanie was very small and we never got her home from the University Hospital until she was 3 weeks old, but were very relieved when she finally arrived home in good health.

We now required more space and moved into the Galaxy Apts. and 1½ years later bought our first home across from the St. Anthony's School. We spent the next 7 years remodelling and building onto this house which took most of our money and spare time.

On January 6, 1972, our son Scott Trevor was born. It was a very cold, windy night and we had to call my mom and dad over to care for Melanie.

Raymond started up a small business called Pembina Movers and delivered furniture for McLeods, Sears and private people. Later he started repairing appliances for McLeods part-time and in 1977 he started up "77 Appliance & Repair" which he still owns and does repairs when he has the time.

In 1978, we bought 3 acres at West Bank Acres by the Ski Hill and built a new home by ourselves. It proved to be a lot of hard work as we only hired a contractor to pour the basement and stipple the ceilings. We moved into the basement in September and upstairs for Christmas. We have now lived here for 19 years and it was a good place to raise our children.

Melinda Wieting, Scott Wieting, holding baby Ryan James. Raymond Wieting, Margaret (Peggy) Wieting, Melanie (daughter) Ovellet, Michael Ovellet

I have only worked outside the home for a couple of short terms and feel privileged that I was able to stay at home and raise our children and be there for them, my husband and also my extended family when they needed my help. It was a job that I enjoyed and would never be able to replace with a paycheque. I do my husband's books for his business and have enjoyed learning to do them on the computer. I have also been able to have time to enjoy some of the things in life that I love best like gardening, golfing, watercolor painting and winter holidays with Ray, family and friends.

The largest project we have undertaken, to date, is building a cabin at Sunset Point on Lac St. Anne. Ray has been building during some of his holidays (with my help) for the past 2 years and we have now completed all of the outside and hope to finish the inside in the next couple of years. Then it will be time to relax and go boating and golfing again. We have both worked very hard over the years and have had a very busy life but also feel privileged to have enjoyed so many happy years together; we are truly blessed.

Our children have been our greatest joy in life and we are now enjoying our first grandchild which is the most exciting thing to happen to our family to

date. Our daughter Melanie married Michael Ouellet on August 14, 1993 and they live in Hinton, Alberta.

Our son Scott married Melinda Jane Roberts on November 18, 1995 and they live at Rocky Rapids. On August 9, 1997 their first child, Ryan James Wieting was born. Their second child, Alyssa Nicole was born September 4, 1998.

FRED & EDNA WILSON

Written by Louise Mikulin

Fred was born in Edmonton, Alberta in 1921. Edna was born in Chesire, England in 1920 and immigrated to Canada in 1926 with her family. Fred and Edna were married in Wainwright, Alberta in 1942. For a few years, Dad worked in the oilfield around Wainwright. Three children (Louise, Charles and Arthur) were born during this time.

Fred and Edna Wilson 1942

There was a move from Wainwright to Lloydminister to follow the oilfield. At this time, another daughter (Margaret) was born. Then there was another move to Redwater, where two more children (Donna and Ronald) were born. Finally, the family moved to Drayton Valley and eventually to Violet Grove in 1954. Two more children, twins this time (Terry and Garry) were born in Drayton Valley in 1961. All the children attended school in Drayton Valley.

Mom and Dad took up a homestead sale in 1959 northwest of Violet Grove (NE 27-48-8-W5), where they built a permanent home.

Throughout Dad's life, he was a papered steam boilerman, mechanic and welder. For a time, he had his own water well drilling rig. Eventually, he retired from working out and just farmed. He loved to invent and remake equipment. He was a recycler before it was really the thing to do. Neighbors and friends would often bring things to him for repair or remodeling. Dad was also an excellent musician, having learned the piano as a youngster. He also loved to read.

Fred and Edna Wilson's 45th wedding anniversary

Mom was a very good cook and gardener. If it wasn't home grown or home made, she didn't consider it a very good product. She taught all eight of us children to cook and knit. She was a very good mother and allowed all of us to experiment in her kitchen, sometimes to great disasters, but more often a treat for everyone. Mom loved to read and knit, learning to crochet in her later years.

Mom passed away in 1988, at the age of 67. Dad passed away in 1991, at the age of 71

They left: Louise and John Mikulin of Drayton Valley, Alberta, Charles and Mary Wilson of Mus-

quodobit Harbor, Nova Scotia, Arthur Wilson, Margaret Lester, Donna Marage of Edmonton, Alberta,; Ronald and Sylvia Wilson of Edmonton, Alberta, Terry and Terri Wilson of Port Couquitlam, British Columbia, Garry and Marisa Wilson of Edmonton, Alberta, plus eighteen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

The farm was sold to Robert and Bonnie Baker in 1992.

Fred, Edna, John, Charles, Louise, Margaret, Arthur, Donna, Ronald, Terry and Garry Wilson

HUGH (BUD) AND DOROTHY WILSON

I came to Drayton Valley in January of 1953, with Regent Drilling Rig #26. We were drilling south and west of Violet Grove. There was no place to stay, so Regent moved in some wooden shacks north of Violet Grove store. There was a house there and I can't remember the fellow's name, but he served meals for a dollar. You had no choice, just whatever it was for that day. Later, he built a restaurant and called it the Lantern Inn. It was impossible to move rigs in the summer, so we left that spring after the rig shut down.

Hugh and Dorothy Wilson

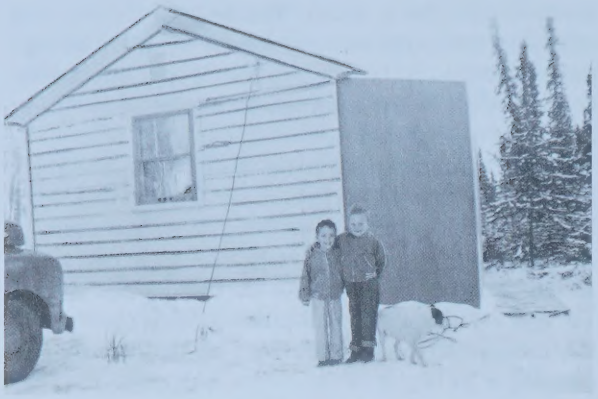
My wife Dorothy, son Butch and daughter Shirley stayed in Leduc where we lived at that time. She had a skid house built. When the rig started up in the fall, we moved it out to Violet Grove, south across the creek from the BA Garage and restaurant. Then next summer Regent put in a camp west of the BA Garage & Restaurant. They drilled a well and put power in like a sub-division. Our children went to school at Violet Grove. Their teacher was Mrs. Landers. There was lots of mud and not much for roads, but as drilling increased, there were more roads and lots of pit run gravel.

Melvin Snell, Hugh and Dorothy Wilson installing the antennae on the skid shack

We left here in 1956 and moved to Edmonton. Later, in 1960, we moved to Breton, farmed and ran a Macleods store. But in the time we were here we drilled several wells from Violet Grove to Wolf Creek. We saw a lot of changes in Violet Grove and Drayton Valley.

In 1980, we moved back to Drayton Valley from Breton and worked at Home Hardware, as our two children and families were here. Our son, Hugh Edmund (Butch), had a pressure truck and then a 100-barrel tank truck and now owns Nutters Store. His wife, Mary, works for Canada Post. They have five children: Tammy married to Robert Thirst, Tracy married to Daryll Zander, Chad, Trina and Tara.

Our daughter Shirley is working for AADAC. Her husband, Ron Gunderson, drove for M & R Trucking. He then bought a tank truck and now a pressure truck. They have three children. Glen Ron (married to Arlene Norton), Darren and Jody Gunderson.



End of skid house with Butch and Shirley Wilson during the winter of 1953

WOLTERS, HERMAN

By: Lois Coward

Herman was born in Missouri in 1899. In 1911 he emigrated to Canada with his family and settled in the Tolland area.

He farmed at Tolland until 1958 at which time he bought land at Moon Lake. As well as farming, he worked in the logging industry. At 70 years of age he was still piling lumber from the planer.

Herman never married. His nieces and nephews were his family and he is fondly remembered by all of them. Herman died at Vermillion in 1986.

RICHY & DOT WOODS

Written by Dot Woods

Richy Woods was born and raised in Regina, Sask., received his B.A. at Notre Dame in Wilcox, Sask., B.Ed. at St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and Masters from the University of Ottawa, and the University of Missoula, Montana. Dot Woods was born in Empress, and raised in Brooks and Medicine Hat. They met when Richy came to Medicine Hat to teach. After marrying, they moved to Stony Plain where they lived for 11years.

In 1966, Richy was invited by the County of Parkland to accept the Principalship of FMHS. After 10 years in Stony Plain, Richy & Dot Woods moved on to Drayton Valley in August 1966 with five children ages 1-8 and rented a teacherage that had previously been the Stu Lunan residence on 46 Street. Plenty of rain to welcome, but fortunately by this time, there were wonderful paved streets and sidewalks in Drayton Valley, and the Lunan yard was beautifully landscaped. We had been to a teacher's function about 3 years prior to this move, and it was so muddy, rainy, and gloomy, we both agreed it was nice to visit but we would never want to live there. So much for that! Within hours of arriving, neighbor Marjorie Gill came with a cake to welcome us, and we knew all would be well. The welcome continued with the other neighbors and residents, and we began some of the happiest years anyone could experience in a community

The children attended St. Anthony's school until Grade 9, and then completed at FMHS. The family attended and were involved in St. Anthony's Church. In the beginning, Richy led the choir and congregation, and Dot played the organ. Richy soon had to give that up as his job became more demanding. One of the major priorities at this time was the construction of the new F.M.H.S. and the move from the old building to the new in 1971 – a very busy, stressful but exciting time for him (as well, just prior to this move we built and moved in to a new home near the high school).

Woods family, 1977

Dot continued involvement with music in the church, and played the organ for services pretty well every weekend for many years. Richy did continue to sing for many weddings, and as the high school band developed, he often sang with them for concerts, and even went on tours. He soon became known as the "singing principal". It also became a tradition that he would sing the Grad theme song every year. Some of those songs they chose were pretty challenging, but he loved doing them

Richy became very involved in the community – in particular the Lions Club. He was a charter member of the Stony Plain club, and continued on in Drayton Valley serving in many positions and working many hours to build the Lion's Park for rodeos. The rodeos were always a lot of work, and the major challenge was always trying to handle the events around the rain. Other major involvements for Richy were Chairperson of the Shangri La Lodge for many years, working with a committee to build the indoor pool, plus many short term projects for the community and the school.

Dot became involved with the Drayton Valley Entertainers, and played piano, sang, and danced with this super group for 20 years. As the group became more accomplished and in demand, we soon needed some expert help with light and sound, so we smooth-talked our husbands into tackling this job. This allowed us to do what we loved and to also spend more time with our spouses. On some occasions, Richy sang as a guest – another opportunity for him to do what he loved. A highlight for us as a couple was when we performed together in a production by the Drayton Valley Players in 1980 called "Broadway to Hollywood", and later with a group called Patchwork in the Blowout show of 1978.

Dorothy Woods and family

For a number of years, Richy & Dot bowled in the mixed league and made some great friends. We then moved on to Ballroom Dance, took some lessons with a group and eventually formed a dance club. This brought a lot of pleasure to our lives and introduced us to more wonderful friends. Richy's relaxing time was woodworking, fishing and family time. Some of our greatest family times were camping holidays to BC for many summers.

Dot's piano playing led her also to playing for a dance school for 10 years for ballet and tap. She got hooked on the dancing, and soon started taking lessons in the Jazz class. Maureen and Carolyn also started taking dance at this time, and Greg and Lori were taking lessons in Ballroom at school from the Trows. Ron wasn't convinced yet about that dancing thing.

Our children benefited from many sports and activities in the school and community – band, football, hockey, skating, and dance, etc. We felt very fortunate to have so much available to us.

Dot went to work at Amoco in Drayton Valley in 1978 to 1987. Richy died very suddenly of a heart attack in March 1985. The family had spread out by this time, so Dot made the difficult decision to leave Drayton Valley and transfer to Edmonton with Amoco in 1987. She worked there until 1989 when the office was centralized to Calgary. She retired at that time and continues to live in Edmonton, still playing church music, and still dancing.

The children are now all married. Lori (Leduc-working in Nisku) to Jim Hamilton of DV (high-voltage electrician) – have 2 children – Michelle & Kevin. Greg (Spruce Grove-working in Libya in oil business, on rotation) to Jacquie Blackburn (lab tech in microbiology – U of A). Maureen (lives near Nelson, B.C.) to Al King (motorcycle repair) – 3 children – Jordan, Sam & James. Ron (cable manufacturer – seismic – Calgary) to Denise (tourism industry from home) – 2 children – Alea & Hannah. Carolyn (dancer – Toronto) to Serge Bennethan (choreographer).

Richie Woods, the singing principal with Andre Boisvert

ALBERT & SHIRLEY WOTTON

Albert & Shirley Wotton moved to Drayton Valley in 1974. Albert, working for USS Oilwell Supply Ltd., was transferred from Gull Lake, Saskatchewan. They have two daughters, Linda and Doreen. They both attended Frank Maddock High School.

Linda graduated in 1977 and went to the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. She graduated from there as a certified combined Lab and X-ray Technician in June, 1979. Linda married Brent Innis on August 14, 1982. They have three children. Sara, born September 23, 1987, Michael born December 14, 1991 and Tanner born September 25, 1993. Linda and her family live in Drayton Valley.

Doreen graduated in 1980 and enrolled in Olds College. She took a two year course in Fashion Merchandising. Doreen married Dale Pridmore on October 8, 1983. They farm at Consul, Saskatchewan.

Albert & Shirley live in Taber, Alberta.

JOHN AND NINA WOYTOVICZ

Submitted by Nina

In the spring of 1956, John Woytovicz happened to come to Drayton Valley to visit his brother Tony and family. He wasn't pleased with his job at Jasper Auto Parts in Edmonton, having only Sundays off and working for low wages. Tony talked John into applying for work in the Drayton area. He took the next day off from work and applied for a job at a few of the local oil companies. In the meantime he had moved to a different rooming house in Edmonton. About a month later he went back to check for mail at the first rooming house. His previous landlady had a letter for him from Stanolind Oil and Gas company (which is presently Amoco) to come in for a job interview.

On August 10, 1956, John started working in the oil fields. He started on the gang as a roustabout and worked many different jobs at Stanolind. They included wireline, grader operator, and as a mechanic in the garage. He eventually became a battery operator.

In December, of 1956, John married Nina Rubik, a girl from the Athabasca area, where they were both raised. We started our married life at Shorty Nielson's #2 Cabin in Lodgepole. At that time living quarters were scarce due to the activity in the area. In January of 1957 we bought Tony's skid house (14' x 40') situated on Otto Stordosvall's land near "A Lease" about three miles west of Violet Grove. This was a bigger place, but we didn't have much in the line of furniture, etc to fill it. In May of that year we moved the skid house to Otto Ganske's farm. Here we hooked up to his electricity, which we previously didn't have. We also planted our first garden there. Berries were also plentiful, so we always had lot of preserves. In the fall, we bought our first furniture: a television, and a refrigerator. Those items were really appreciated. Now the milk didn't sour and the meat never spoiled!!

In March, of 1958, our daughter, Debbie, was born in Edmonton. The Drayton Valley hospital didn't open until August of 1958.

John and Nina Woytovicz

In 1959, Amoco had developed lots with water and sewer hookups for their employees in Lodgepole. In May, we hired a lowboy to move our skidhouse to Lodgepole. John was busy installing indoor plumbing, etc. We really enjoyed the indoor running water and sewer, things that many of us take for granted nowadays. This also left us with a lot that we could fix up. We had to remove roots and do the landscaping. Eventually, after lots of hard work, it looked nice. While living in Lodgepole, we learned to curl, went fishing by the river and later the Dam. John also loved hunting. A lot of visiting was done. Our neighbors, the Henrys, Porowskis, Mestons, Simpsons, Waters, Lemires, and Storoziks always had the coffee on. We have remained friends with many of these people through the years.

In August, 1963, our son Donald, was born. In November of that year we had to leave Lodgepole. John was transferred to work in the Lobstick field

around Rocky Rapids. So we sold our skid house and moved to Drayton Valley. John worked in the Lobstick area for a while, and then went on to become the first operator of the newly built gas plant in Berrymoor. Here he met Ed Van Ember. Both families became good friends and still are to this day.

In September, 1970, our daughter Dianne, was born. In the spring of 1971, we bought a farm seven miles northwest of Drayton Valley. It was a very rainy wet summer when we were trying to fix up the house (painting, cleaning, etc.). John farmed after work and on days off. He was usually happy to go back to work to rest up. Often the weatherman wouldn't cooperate. We raised cattle, pigs, chickens and turkeys at one point or another. The freezer was pretty full in the fall.

In October, of 1972, our youngest daughter Darlene, was born. This made our family complete. I was kept pretty busy taking care of the kids and tending to the animals while John was at work. We had good neighbors who would always help out in a pinch. We remember all the get togethers and fun times we had. We had many picnics and celebrated many birthdays, etc with our neighbors: the Harris's, Roberts, and Bettons. We also have great memories of the many cribbage parties through the years. The Cribbage Bunch included the Kellys, Campbells, Kenworthys, Steeves, MacKenzies, Frosts, Walls, and Dusterhofts. These parties were usually held once a month. We had a lot of fun and fellowship.

In 1986, Amoco was downsizing. John took an early retirement package. He went to work as a grader operator for a few years. This helped ease him into retirement.In May of 1991, we sold our farm and moved to Drayton Valley. The farm sale was on the rainiest day of the century!

Debbie presently lives and works in Edmonton as a receptionist at Dr. McGugen's Nursing Home. Don lives in Drayton Valley. He works for Imperial Oil as a Gas Plant Operator near Cynthia. Dianne lives and works in Red Deer for the Communications Group. Darlene lives in Edmonton. She works for Capital Accounting.

In November, of 1997, we were honored to celebrate my Dad's 100th birthday. He lives in the Extendicare Center in Athabasca. He is still able to tend to his daily needs and recognizes most people. In July, of 1998, we will help John's mother celebrate her100th birthday. She still lives in her own house on the farm in the Athabasca area. We still reside in Drayton Valley. Occasionally, we travel down to southern California for a few months in the winter. Here, we meet with two of John's brothers and their families. We enjoy the sun and love the cactus. We still enjoy fishing, ice fishing, camping, golfing and going to the Drop In Center to play cards, etc.

Debbie, Darlene, Don and Dianne Woytovicz

ALBION & FREDA WRIGHT

Submitted by Albion Wright

Our Drayton Valley years – 1958 to 1962

The United Church of Canada, Alberta Conference met at the Banff School of Fine Arts in May of 1958. It was at this meeting that the newly ordained Ministers discovered where they were 'placed' by the Settlement Committee. Freda and I hoped that Drayton Valley would be our destination and we were excited to learn that the Settlement Committee had concurred with the request of the delegation from Drayton Valley to place us there.

By 1958, the United Church folk had made substantial progress in establishing a congregation and erecting a Church building. Rev. Bill Sayers was my predecessor, having served the congregation first as a Student Minister and then as the first full time ordained Minister. It was an added bonus for us to continue the work that had been so well launched by our friends, Bill and Marion Sayers.

We moved from our home in Edmonton to the Manse in Drayton Valley in the summer of 1958. The Manse had been purchased from the Engineered Homes Section of the Muttart Company. Merrill Muttart had become well established as a pioneer in the prefab homes method of construction.

The Manse, although very comfortable on the inside, was situated in the midst of a very undeveloped lot. Tall grass and other vegetation surrounded the house. An offer one day from a local farm lady to cut our lot for hay was gratefully received and accepted. Not exactly what one thinks of in lawn cutting, but it did the job!

Our daughters, Karen and Deanna, who were

ages 4 years and 2 years, were puzzled and a bit distressed that the Oil Company homes had nice grass covered yards and ours was not ideal as a place to play. All of that soon changed as the congregation, with initiative from Harry Zolmer and Howard Pickup, provided resources for land fill, landscaping and fence building.

There was tremendous energy and spiritual strength within the congregation. A great many who were active in the Church were in their early years of family formation and felt both the need and desire to provide a Christian community in which their children could grow and learn.

The congregation grew and flourished. On Easter Sunday 1959, the Church was filled to overflowing. Howard Pickup with a quiet smile of inner satisfaction said, "Drayton Valley has come of age, up until now people went away to family and friends at Easter time. Now they feel that this is home and they have gathered in their home Church to worship."

I often thought of Howard's insight in this regard as the years of settlement and stabilization continued. There was excitement continuously, with the opportunity to form new groups in both Church and Community. In the spring we became even more aware of how many children were in out midst as the spaces for play expanded from house to yards and sidewalks. There were six classes of grade one children entering school each year.

Sixteen men from Drayton Valley spent a weekend at the United Church Banff Men's Conference one year. The inspiration and enthusiasm that they shared on their return home was a source of renewed life and vitality for the congregation over the years.

The transient nature of the community made it necessary to recruit and train leaders who would be ready to take over positions of leadership as others were suddenly moved by their Companies.

Tragedy seemed to strike frequently! We often felt death's cruel sting. Three small children lost their lives as a result of an Oil Stove explosion at noon time on a bright sunny winter day. Oil field accidents reminded us of the unyielding toll that technology takes.

Our family memories are many and varied. We were able to cut our own Christmas tree in the bush land near town, we picnicked on the shores of the North Saskatchewan River and we found hills upon which to ski and toboggan.

Our son, Darryl, was born in 1961, and as Freda and I arrived home on completion of the drive from the University Hospital in Edmonton, Darryl received a warm welcome to his first home from his sisters, Karen and Deanna.

In early 1962, we were invited to move to Ontario and made plans to leave Drayton Valley and move away to Markham, Ontario.

Drayton Valley had its birth early in the 20th Century and its rebirth in the era of the Space Age. One of most vivid memories of our time there was the day we spent with relatives that were visiting listening to Walter Cronkite narrate on the radio the first flight of John Glen orbiting the earth. Three flights around the earth filled a day with wonder and amazement.

I remember, too, that both television and jet travel were in their infancy. My first jet aircraft flight was taken while we were at Drayton Valley. We bought our first TV on arriving in Drayton Valley. A final memory that I might share was a visit to the Pumping Station I learned that day the power and the force of modern technology. All of the oil produced in the Pembina Field was gathered and pumped from that one station to the refinery in Edmonton and into the pipeline to Eastern Canada. I expected to meet many men and women operating the station. To my surprise it was so completely automated that only one person was required to monitor the equipment.

Drayton Valley gave many of us an opportunity to meet the future! It was an experience to remember with gratitude. Friendships were a gift and have continued to the present.

MIKE AND MARY VOWK

Written by Mary Vowk

My mother, Mary Vowk and my father, Mike Vowk immigrated from Austria. My mother came to Emmerson, Manitoba, Canada in 1905 with her mother and father, Steven and Barbara Kulyk. My father immigrated to Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1910.

Mike went to work in a foundry there. Mary worked in the Fort Gary Hotel as a cook. Mary & Mike married in February of 1917. Mary moved with her family to Cappon, Alberta. Mike joined her in February 1918. They soon had their own homestead and they built a home of wood and mud. They soon had their first six children: Roman, Olga, Sophie, Sonia, Ivan, Joseph. The land Mike worked was sandy. The drought of the 1920's & 1930's brought the family a move to the Easyford district in 1935 where Mary received a homestead.

Mike dismantled their house in Cappon loaded it on a wagon and took it to the train along with their cows and horses. Mike & Mary, along with six children ages 17 to 1½ years, travelled by train to Entwistle where they lived with friends for two weeks, while Mike & Roman took the wagon and animals to Easyford. While they were there they

rebuilt the house so Mary and the children would have a home.

Mary Vowk

During all this, Mike liked to play the violin and the accordion. Roman also learned to play the violin. Later on Ivan followed suit and also learned to play the violin and guitar. Joe liked the accordion and loved to sing.

After the house was rebuilt Mike sawed logs off the land and put a log addition onto the house. Three more children were born Michael, Mary, & Peter.

Mike and Mary worked together in field work and gardening along with the children. The land clearing meant cutting the trees with an axe and saw. Utilizing the trees as logs for building barns or fences. Then later using the shovel to dig to the roots and then chopping them off with an axe. And the harnessed horse for pulling the stumps out of the ground. And for those roots that were stubborn the axe and saw were used again. Meanwhile the cows had to be milked. The milk separated and the house milk was taken to the spring to be kept cold and the excess taken to the pigs and chickens. The cream was hauled to Rocky Rapid store where a truck picked it up and took it to the creamery in Edmonton.

Mike and Mary Vowk

Harvesting of the hay was cutting with a horse drawn mower and a horse drawn rake. Then picking it up by the fork full, tossing it on a hay rack pulled by horses. Someone had to tramp the hay as it was put on. Then it was hauled to the stacking area. To get it off the hay rack Mike used a giant hay fork & a block and tackle that was powered by two horses and a lot of yelling at the horses. Then someone had to tramp on the stack and use a hay fork to build the stack. The funny thing in the winter you went through the same pitch fork method to feed the stock.

The harvesting of the grain crops was done with a binder which put the grain into bundles. The children and parents all working at stooking the bundles and leaving them to dry. When they were dry Mike organized the threshing machine and crew to come and separate the grain from the straw. Mary did not find it hard to feed the threshers usually 20 people. The meal was potatoes, vegetables, puddings, and what ever meat was in season.

Fish, moose, deer, or maybe even canned beef, chicken, or pork. Mary was a good cook and it was nothing to surprise the threshers with a unique dish like fish pies. Her bread and butter was the envy of the neighbours.

Any neigbour that needed threshing done came with their hay wagon to haul in the bundles to the threshing machine. Each wagon had a driver, one man on the wagon to arrange the bundles as they were tossed onto the wagon and two men to toss the bundles onto the wagon.

Then three men tossed bundles into the threshing machine. It was a happy day when the threshing was complete with the straw pile standing high shining in the sun and the grain secure in the bins. Now it was time to go to the next farmers place. And that was how the people helped each other with manpower and wagons and horse power.

Mike Vowk

The other yearly job was to cut enough

wood to keep the house warm for the winter. Mike took his swede saw and axe and went to cut trees and skid them with a horse. He hauled them on a wagon or sleigh that was set up to haul logs home. When the pile was very big Mike arranged for a neighbour to come in with a tractor that had a belt driven circular saw. Most times it took two days of sawing to complete the job. More cooking for Mary. Mikes job was still in complete, all the wood had to be split and hauled into the wood house.

Mike built an insulated shed, which was their refrigerator. He was handy in that he also built a root cellar for all the vegetables. Another common routine was to haul ice from the river in blocks and put it in an ice house and cover with sawdust. This was another type of refrigeration.

During the winter months he made wooden toys for the children. Wagons and men from wood and string. Somehow the men were able to swing and jump. Mike had another talent which was sewing. He worked for a taylor in Austria before he came to Canada so when the children needed coveralls he took the backs of his coveralls and made coveralls for the kids. Mary also sewed without a pattern.

Every place you wanted to go to you had to walk, ride a horse, ride a wagon, ride a sleigh or row a boat. We walked to the nighbours in the dark no flashlights only the feel of the ground, and the silouette of the tree tops told you where you were. As you were walking you sang all the way for relaxing yourself and for scaring the animals.

This farm was on the Pembina River so there was fun to be had in the summer as everyone learned to swim and fish. Not only did the family take part in fishing but also many neigbours as far as Drayton Valley came to be taken across the river so they could walk to Bear Creek to fish for jack and pickerel. When their catch was completed the people came back and called out and someone would take the boat and bring them back. I was only six years old when I was allowed to row the boat across to pick up fisherman.

The Anglican Church in Drayton Valley sent a minister or a layreader nurse to conduct church services in the school house. Mike took Mary and the family whenever they went. The layreader came by horseback and eventually by car. When they came by car they brought a portable organ with them so that we would have music to sing by.

Mike and Mary got the power to the farm in 1959. Roman and I wired the house looking in my grade seven science book. I couldn't believe it when it worked. That meant an electric motor on the wash machine and television set.

All the children starting with Sonia went to the Easyford school. Inez Oscar taught the older children. Then Bessie Henkel taught Joe, Mike, Mary, & Peter. Freda Coward taught until 1956 when the road was completed and the children were bused to Drayton Valley.

When Bessie Henkel taught at Easyford she arranged many trips for the students. Her husband, John had a 5-ton truck that he took us to the track meets, to the parliament house, and also if anyone was sick and needed to go to a doctor he hauled us to Edmonton.

Sadness came in April of 1951, when young Michael was shot in a shooting accident.

In 1954 the first oil well was drilled in the Drayton Valley area so the life style was about to change. There were no roads and the trails we had were definitely not for heavy loads. Work was plentiful in the oil field so money was a little more plentiful. Roman moved back and went to work for Calgary Power, Joe got a job working for Stanlin Oil, Ivan bought a small cat and went to work in the oil field.

In 1958 Joe helped the family log the home quarter and they got enough lumber to build a new house. So Mike had another house to build. Mike and Mary moved into their new home 1960.

All my brothers and sisters married and had their own lives but their hearts were still at Easyford where Mike & Mary brought us up.

ALFRED & ELAINE (JOHNSON) YOUNG

By Elaine Young

Alfred Terry Young was born September 17, 1950, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta. His parents are Douglas William Young, born October 10, 1920 at Wattsford, Alberta and Evelyn Almira (Ayers) Young, born on Feb. 14, 1928 at Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Alfred has a brother, Jerry Douglas Young born March 16, 1948 and a sister Colleen Evelyn (Young) Strautman, born September 10, 1957.

Alfred's grandfather, Sidney Alfred Young came to the Lindale area from Woodbend, north of Devon, Alberta, to homestead the SW 8-50-5 W5M in 1950. Sidney and Doug built a three-room log house down on the creek flat. Sidney lived there until the early 60's.

Alf attended Lindale School from Grade 1 to Grade 9. His Mom was the janitor at the school for a few years and his Dad used to help make the skating rink at school for the kids. While living on the farm, Alf helped out by bringing in the cows for milking with his horse Rocky and his dog Bullet. He helped milk cows before going to school in the

morning and again after supper. He belonged to the 4-H Club for a few years. Once Alf shot a lynx while riding Rocky. It was sitting in a tree ready to leap on them. He would often go out with his 22 and get a couple of prairie chickens for his Mom to cook for supper.

Alfred Young about 1954 homestead at Lindale, Alberta.

There was no indoor plumbing or running water at the farm, so the water was hauled in and heated in a boiler on the stove. The aluminum tub would be in the middle of the kitchen floor (usually by the open oven door for warmth).

After Grade 9, Alf took his high school in Breton. There he participated in High School sports, which included basketball, football, and track and field. He took boxing at the Boxing Club in Breton for awhile.

At this time he was a drummer for a band "The Invaders". They played for many dances from Winfield to Carrot Creek, but mostly at Buck Creek, Lindale, Breton and Winfield. He also played drums for a band from Drayton Valley.

Alf graduated from Breton High School in June, 1968. His parents moved from Lindale to Calmar in July, 1968.

In October 1968, Alf joined the Canadian Armed Forces. He spent time at Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, Base Borden, Ontario, and was a Military Policeman for about 13 months at Val Dor, Quebec. When he got out of the Army in 1970, he worked at various jobs. He was a security guard for Pinkerton's at the McIntyre Mine at Grande Cache, Alberta in late 1970 and into 1971. He operated a backhoe at Devon for awhile for Big Horn Maintenance. He later worked on the oil rigs for Adeco Drilling. It was at this time (July 1972), that we started dating.

I, Elaine Louise Johnson, was born January 14, at the University Hospital in Edmonton. My parents were Elmor George Johnson, who was born December 1, 1909 at Dodge City, Kansas, and died January 27, 1957, at the Rimbey Hospital. Hazel Muruel Sutherland, born March 30, 1921, at Rabbit Hill, Alberta and died October 14, 1997, in Edmonton. They are both buried at the Mount Clare Cemetery at Winfield. They lived on a farm NE 27-46-5 W5M one half mile north of the Spruce Hill School. I have two sisters and one brother. Hazel "Joyce" Law was born was born September 24, 1941, Theodore George "Ted" was born July 14, 1943, and Arlene Minnie Hedlund was born March 9, 1945.

Elaine Johnson

We moved to Winfield the summer of 1955 when I was four and a half years old. Dad did the janitor work at the Winfield School. My Dad died of polycystic kidney disease just after my 6th birthday. I also have polycystic kidney disease but so far it has not bothered me.

We lived in a small three-bedroom house with red brick siding. It was across the corner from the school. I couldn't even play hooky because both our doors faced the school. Our house didn't have water and plumbing either. Our neighbors from across the street, Clarence "Shorty" and Lula Tompkins carried water from our place for years. Mrs. Tompkins had asthma really bad so quite often I would pump her water. She usually rewarded me with cookies or candies or sometimes a little money to spend when I went downtown. In about 1962 to 1964, they drilled their own well and when they did, our well went dry, but sometimes there is a silver lining in the cloud. Now I had to carry water from their place in our two white enamel with red trim water pails (we had a washbasin, dipper, and dish-pan to match). It just so happened that they had a television and we didn't, so I usually made my water trips when my favorite shows were on. Mom couldn't carry water, as her back was bad from a fall off a hayrake when she was about sixteen years old. Sometimes I would take a towel and my soap and bathe there too and that saved carrying and heating

the water, bathing in the big tub by the oven and then hauling the water back outside again.

There were a few kids my age that lived in town also, and we would have fun playing ball or playing at the school playgrounds. We used to build a lot of forts and tree houses. My friend, Connie Swanson, and I would spend hours down at the railroad trestle south of town. I asked Mom a few years ago if she worried about me a lot when we were gone for a long time, she said some, but not like today because there weren't as many dangerous people around. Of course, we had our dogs with us! Mine was "Pup" and Connie's was "Tippy". They probably wouldn't have protected us much, but they were good company.

I took all 12 grades of my schooling at Winfield School and graduated October 10, 1969. While I was in school, I was a cheerleader, played volleyball, basketball and helped out decorating the gym for school dances. I knew Alf then because of the sports, but mostly because my high school boyfriend was in the same band, "The Invaders".

I moved to Edmonton in July, 1969, where I worked for Alberta Blue Cross in the filing department until June, 1972. My supervisor was Ruth Delaney who was good to us girls and I really enjoyed working there.

In May, 1972, when my high school boyfriend and I quit seeing each other, Alf was boarding with my Mom and stepfather, Roy Borden at the oil rig. Roy had a water truck and they had a small trailer they stayed in at the rig. Alf got in touch with me and we started going out.

From June 26, 1972 to Dec 13, 1972, I didn't have a job. I visited around with relatives and stayed with Mom and Roy in Wetaskiwin. I went on a three-week trip to Nova Scotia in September, 1972. Alf was living at his parents in Calmar. He had bought a 1972 metallic brown Datsun 240Z for $3800, so when he was home on days off, we would visit and travel around a lot.

Cole Young

When Alf and my brother Ted were working on the rigs in the Arctic for Adeco, Alf was rushed home in December, 1972, because he had crushed his finger between the pipes. That healed up, so he went back. Then in March, 1973, he had only been back up north for a few days, when the rig blew up in the MacKenzie Delta. His face was badly burned. He was in the Charles Camsell Hospital for about three weeks. After healing up from this, he decided that coming out hurt twice was enough. As it turned out, some of his crew were on the airplane that crashed up there in the fog about a year later and they were all killed. It is spooky because if he had still been working there he may have been on that plane.

In May, 1973, he started working as a warehouse man for Air Canada Cargo. He worked there for five years until May , 1978, when he started working for Pembina Pipeline in Drayton Valley, as a pigger-gauger.

In December, 1972, I started working as a teller at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Wetaskiwin. I also trained as the proof teller. In December, 1972, I quit and moved to Leduc, and was teller at the Edmonton Savings and Credit Union until July, 1976. I then moved to Alf's land north of Lindale (SE 5-50-5 W5M). I worked first as a teller for about a year and then in the loans department at the Bank of Nova Scotia in Drayton Valley until Dec 31, 1983, at which time I had been the assistant loan's officer for about three years.

In July, 1976, when I first moved out here, I lived in my sister Arlene Hedlund's holiday trailer in their yard, then in Mom and Roy's holiday trailer in Doug and Marj Holmgren's yard. Finally in September, 1976, Alf moved out here too and we lived in his Mom and Dad's little holiday trailer while we worked on the house. On January 1, 1977, we moved into our very unfinished house, but it was heaven compared to the small, very cold, holiday trailer. Boards nailed to the wall seemed to be okay for cupboards at the time, but that's a whole other story.

We decided our biological clocks were ticking by way too fast and I wanted a baby, so we were engaged October, 1983, and our son Cole Douglas Sidney was born Tuesday, May 22, 1984, at the old hospital in Drayton Valley at 3:36 am on a cold rainy night. He was the last baby born in the old hospital and they moved us by ambulance to the new hospital when Cole was ten hours old. I gave Dr. Russell heck because I wanted to have the first baby in the new hospital, and all he said was, "I didn't think you'd be that fast" (only five and a half hours). So we missed all the gifts and publicity, but Cole was the first baby to be in the new nursery.

On September 1, 1984, Audrey Smale, Marriage Commission, married Alf and I in our back yard. Alf's brother Jerry and my life-long friend Connie (Swanson) Fischer were our attendants. There was close family and friends for the service, then in the

evening we had a supper and dance in our garage. We had a lot of fun.

Cole attended Lindale School from Playschool in 1988 to Grade 6 in June 1997. He played baseball for eight years and played on the basketball and volleyball teams. In September 1997 he started Grade 7 at Breton High School. On September 10, 1998 he joined the Drayton Valley Air Cadet #733 squadron and has really enjoyed the campouts, trips and everything he has learned. We are so proud of him.

While Cole was at Lindale School, Alf and I were very active volunteering and fundraising for various things. Alf coached Cole's ball team for seven years, was president of the Oilfield Minor Ball League for four years, president of Lindale Minor Ball for three years, mowed the grass at the ball diamond, flooded the skating rink for three years, and helped install the playground equipment.

I was secretary-treasurer for the Oilfield Minor Baseball League for four years, secretary-treasurer for Lindale Minor Ball for three years, secretary of Lindale School Association for three years, secretary of Lindale Parent Council for two years. I was also involved with the hot lunch program, sold commemorative Lindale School plates, helped with the Lindale School 75th Reunion and many other activities. I loved going on the field trips with Cole's class. The first time I was ever at camp was with Cole's class at Camp Warwa when he was in Grade 4. I had as much or more fun than the kids did.

I have been secretary-treasurer of the Lindale Cemetery for twelve years and help with most of the cemetery cleanups. I looked into and had markers made up for our 35 unmarked graves.

We are now busy volunteering for the cadets.

I got interested and then addicted to family history in the summer of 1998 and have been a member of the Drayton Valley and Alberta Genealogy Societies for over two years. It is a very time consuming hobby, but very rewarding when I can share all my findings with others and take my binders of family history to reunions and other family get-togethers. At this time I have 23 binders ranging from 1 inch to 4 inches thick. In doing this family history I have made some wonderful discoveries and heard some very interesting stories and it makes me appreciate my family more. It has showed me how important these community history books are. I also enjoy camping and other activities. I am a Shaklee distributor and love sharing the wonderful Shaklee products with people to help them be healthier and help the environment also by using the safe for environment cleaners.

Alf enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, reading and watching movies on TV. He has taken guitar lessons for four years from Edwin Erickson at Buck Lake. Alf and I build willow furniture. We call this our "get our butts off the couch and do something project". We have given them away as wedding presents, Christmas presents, and we made two loveseats, a chair and a table in November/99 and donated it to the cadets for a raffle.

We enjoy living in the country where it is quiet and private. We like the birds and other wildlife we see all the time. We also have three dogs, Sparky (16 years old), Monty (2 years old) and Barney (6 years old). We also have my cat, Tuffs (8 years old), Cole's gerbil and 8 fish.

We have had all these happy years together and hope we enjoy many more.

Alf, Elaine and Cole Young

DOUGLAS & EVELYN YOUNG

By daughter-in-law Elaine (Johnson) Young

Douglas William Young was born at Bellis, Alberta on October 10, 1920, but his birth was registered at Wattsford, Alberta, which was across the road from his parents farm at Kaleland, Alberta.

His mother was Alice Robina Whitford, born Sept. 6, 1886 (or 1889 possibly) at Kerrobert, Sask. She died at Kaleland, Alberta on June 16, 1931, and is buried at the Soda Lake Cemetery north of Vegreville along with three of Doug's siblings. His father, Sidney Alfred Young, was born Sept. 8, 1887, at Nursling, Southampton, England. He died at the Drayton Valley Hospital on November 3, 1965 and is buried at the Lindale Cemetery near Lindale, Alberta. Alice and Sidney were married at Lanuke, Alberta on December 25, 1908.

Evelyn Almira (Ayers) Young was born February 14, 1928, at the Wetaskiwin Hospital,

which was the building that became the Wales Hotel.

Her mother was Hilah Pink (Summers) Ayers, born March 6, 1890, at Bradshaw, Nebraska. She died May 20, 1973, at the Wetaskiwin Hospital. Her father was Oliver Jay Ayers, born August 26, 1885, at Bradshaw, Nebraska. He died September 2, 1942, at the Wetaskiwin Hospital. Both are buried along with other family members at the Bonnie Glen Cemetery near Mulhurst, Alberta. They were married June 1, 1908 at York, Nebraska, and had their first three children in Nebraska before coming to Canada in 1912.

Doug went to school at Kaleland, Alberta up to Grade 8. He helped his father and brothers with the farm work and hired out on threshing crews, getting about 25 cents a day plus meals. He joined the army on May 19, 1941, at the age of 20, in the 17th Field Ambulance, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. He travelled to many places in Europe during the war and spent quite a bit of time with his uncles and their families in Nursling, England while on leave. They were market gardeners there. He was honorably discharged from the army on Feb. 28, 1946, with the rank of corporal. Once while he was in England, he went to a local pub. There was a picket fence near it and Doug had had a pint too many. When he tried to get over the fence, he got the belt of his army great coat caught on the pickets and spent the better part of the night there. In 1975, while Doug's son Alf worked for Air Canada Cargo, he was able to get his mom and dad a pass to go to England. Dad said the pub was still there. It looked like the same fence, and he said even some of the old guys looked like the same ones that were there 30 years before.

While Doug was in the army he met Gordon Brown, who was Evelyn's brother-in-law. Gordon told Doug that he had a single sister-in-law back home and they started writing to each other for a couple of years. They finally met at Easter time, 1946. Evelyn sang the "Easter Parade" to him. They were married on a rainy Tuesday, July 2, 1946 at the old log United Church in Warburg, Alberta.

Evelyn was raised at Mulhurst, Alberta and attended the Spring Hill School up to grade nine. She and a couple of classmates had a band in which she played the guitar. Her grade ten was taken at Warburg, where she lived with her sister and brother-in-law Viola and Rudolph Jehn, and helped take care of her nieces and nephews. She started grade eleven in Edmonton while room and boarding with a lady, but that didn't work out so she quit school and moved into a one-room suite with one of her girlfriends. At this time she worked at the General Hospital doing laundry. The two of them went to BC for about four months and worked picking fruit. When she came home, she again stayed at her sister Vi's and helped with the kids until she got married.

After they were married, they lived at Woodbend on land that Doug's dad had purchased for him with money sent home while he was in the army. Doug's dad also lived at Woodbend, and they both worked as grounds keepers for the Government at the Alberta Provincial Museum in Edmonton. They also did landscaping and yard work for other people. Sidney would often ride his bike from Woodbend to Edmonton to work.

Their first child, Jerry Douglas Young, was born while they were living at Woodbend, on March 16, 1948 at the old Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta. When Evelyn was pregnant with Jerry, she thought she would go out to the barn and watch the cows calve, as she had never seen anything being born and thought this might give her some insight into what having a baby was all about. She didn't get to see a birth as her father-in-law, Sidney, sent her back to the house real quick, saying that was no place for a young woman. Girls were very sheltered from that kind of thing in those days. She managed to have Jerry, but it would have probably been a lot less frightening if she had seen the cows give birth.

They moved to Jasper Place and lived there for a couple of years. Doug worked at the powerhouse and later as maintenance man for the school division, which is now part of County of Parkland. While there, their second son, Alfred Terry Young, was born on September 17, 1950, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. While Evelyn was in the hospital having Alfred, Doug sold the house, so they moved to the homestead at Lindale, Alberta. Their first house there much resembled a granary, but they gradually fixed it up and added on, and it became a fairly comfortable home in those times. Ev says how she wished they could have had snowmobiles and quads back then. In the winter, when Doug was away from home working, she would have to make a trail down to the creek to water the cows. On what was Ernest Young's quarter, there is a very steep hill and a gradual incline all the way. When she did this, Jerry (about 5 or 6 years old) and Alfred (2 years younger) were left in the house alone. She would tell Jerry "if the house catches fire, get yourself and your brother outside". My how she must have worried with the wood stoves the only source of heat.

Doug worked on the bridge over the North Saskatchewan River, east of Drayton Valley, Alberta when it was being built. In the summer, Ev and the boys lived in a little skid shack down where Willy West Campground is now. There was a rowboat to

get back and forth across the river. They used to sink it at least once a week, so it was a little scary for Ev when she had to go to Drayton Valley for groceries. One of the workers would drive to town and escort her around, because it wasn't really that safe for a woman to be on the streets alone at that time (about 1954).

When Jerry was about 5 years old, he and Evelyn had rheumatic fever. They were in different hospitals in Edmonton. Doug was driving cat and Alf stayed with the Jehn's at Warburg. The neighbors, usually the Shiptons, did their chores.

They had many hard times and many happy times on the homestead and Ev often says that people wouldn't have been able to make it without their neighbors' help.

On September 10, 1957 they had a daughter Colleen Evelyn. She was born at the Wetaskiwin Hospital.

In those days, the entertainment was card parties in the homes and going to dances. Doug and Ev played for many of these dances, lots of time without any pay. Alf remembers one time his Dad went to Edmonton to Hank Smith Music and bought a new accordion. That weekend they played for a dance at Lindale. It was muddy and there was so much dust in the hall, that it wrecked his new accordion. He took it back and Hank gave him a new one. Doug also plays the little button accordion, which isn't easy! They laugh about the time it rained really hard so they thought the dance would be cancelled. Pretty soon a pickup of guys drove in the yard, loaded them up to go play and brought them home after the dance. The dance got started a little late but they had a good time.

Doug and Ev drove a Volkswagon Beetle at one time and when they played for dances at Lindale Hall, the young guys would pick up the car and carry it all over the hall grounds. When there was a break and Doug would go outside, he never knew where the car was, but when it was time to go home it was back in its regular spot.

All the kids went to the dances with their parents. Ev says many times there would be babies lying on coats around her feet on the stage. They were safer and warmer up there. In the winter, when they got the old airtight heater loaded up with wood, there would be a fog a couple feet thick across the floor. There weren't many fences around, so sometimes, if they didn't close up the Lindale Hall properly, the cows would get in there and occasionally when they drove up there would be a cow looking out the door.

There used to be Christmas concerts at Bill and Phyllis Shipton's house for all the neighbors in north end. Shipton's house was the biggest in the area. Phil would have the house all decorated with homemade decoration. Santa would be there to pass out candy bags to all the kids. Alf remembers all the handmade foil-covered stars that Gwen Mayr used to decorate up their log house. She would hang them from the ceiling and have real candles on the Christmas tree.

Doug drove cat for the County of Leduc and helped build many of the roads we enjoy driving on today. Sometimes there were really bad forest fires, usually south of Highway 39 towards Buck Creek, and they would haul Doug's County cat on a lowboy to whereever it was needed. One time, the fire was dangerously close to a family, so he hooked onto the trailer hitch and pulled it out of there. He was never sure what got wrecked inside, but at least they still had a roof over their heads.

The power came into the Lindale area in July, 1957, and the rural telephones came in July, 1968. Russell and Amy Hutchinson had a phone in their store at Lindale, so it was quite a treat to be able to make and receive calls there when there were family emergencies.

Alf laughs about the time his Dad went to Nels Olson's to borrow his Black Angus bull. Doug was driving a pickup with a flat deck on it. He told Nels he would try to rig up something to haul the bull but Nels said he didn't have to, he just led the bull up and tied him and Doug drove home.

The first time Doug and Bill Shipton met, Doug was stuck in one of the numerous mud holes north of Lindale, so Billy took his horse Dick and braided a rope into his tail and pulled the vehicle out. He said it wouldn't hurt the horse because he would only pull a certain amount and quit when it was too much.

Doug and Ev had a big workhorse mare named Babe. Alf would get on a 45-gallon gas drum to climb up on her and Ev would sometimes look out and Alf would be lying on her back sleeping. They used to pile six or eight kids on her for a ride and Billy Shipton said if they starched her tail, they could get at least three more on. Alf said if you fell off you never had to worry about her stepping on you. She would just turn her head and look at you and wonder what the heck you were doing down there.

Once Jerry had a horrible nosebleed. They used towels and a dishpan. They couldn't get it stopped, so they drove until they got stuck, then someone on the other side would pick them up and take them as far as they could. They finally got to Rudolph and Viola Jehn's at Warburg, and he took them to the hospital in Edmonton.

For a while before Sidney died, he had a little house in Cy and Rose Young's yard (by Highway 39). At this time, Doug and Ev sold the homestead and moved to Sidney's house at the west end of Lindale. While they lived there, Ev did the janitor work at the school and babysat some of the teachers' kids. Dad still worked on the cats for the county of Leduc.

In July 1968, they sold and moved to Calmar. Doug worked for about five years as a commissionaire and then another ten years as a maintenance man for the Ministry of Transport at the Edmonton International Airport. Evelyn worked for a while at the Calmar Bakery. Later she worked about 15 years at the Plainview Manor in Leduc. Then she worked as the caretaker at the Leduc Courthouse for 12 years until she retired in the fall of 1992. They sold their place in Calmar and on Dec 7, 1991. They moved to Leduc to a house that Colleen and Barry Strautman own.

Doug has been a legion member since the Legion started, and they are still active with the Calmar Legion. Doug enjoys his family and the many get-togethers we all have. He spends a lot of time in his garage, building, fixing or changing things around. He enjoys golfing, but with his emphysema, he doesn't get out as often as he would like.

Evelyn does all kinds of crafts. She knits and crochets beautifully. She has a collection of Barbie-sized dolls that she has crocheted very fancy intricate beaded dresses for, and has made all the furniture to match from plastic mesh and yarn. It is really something to see. She enjoys her retirement, and says she hopes she lives long enough to do all the things she wants to get done.

Jerry went to school at Lindale up to Grade 9. He went to the Canadian Vocational Training School in Victoria, BC, for about six months in 1966, and upgraded his schooling so he was credited for Grade 10 with good marks in his courses. While there, he worked as a busboy at Woolworth's for about six months before he came home. He married Jeanette Dahlgren on August 11, 1967, at the Berrymoor Church. The reception and dance were at the Lindale Hall. As luck would have it, it was rainy and muddy. Annette Michelle was born April 8, 1968, at the Drayton Valley Hospital.

Jerry apprenticed as a mechanic at Woolco Auto Center in the Capilano Mall, Edmonton, for over four years. He attended NAIT and got his mechanics ticket with the Interprovincial Stamp on it on November 22, 1973. To get this stamp he had to have quite high marks. While working at the Woolco Auto Center he got his ticket as a wheel alignment specialist at Bear Wheel Alignment School. They rented a little house in Edmonton for a while, and later they lived at South Cooking Lake.

Jerry also did mechanic work at the Weed Creek Garage west of Calmar for about a year until it blew up and burned down. The fire started from an explosion of marsh gas in the water well beneath the building. Jerry was inside when it blew, but was not injured and he managed to get his motorcycles out, but was unable to save his tools and tool chest or the cash register as the fire spread too quickly. They were renting a house west and south of Calmar at the time.

Jerry enjoyed snowmobiling and riding dirt bikes and motorcycles. He also had a racecar that he raced at Speedway Park near Edmonton.

Sherry Lynn was born August 29, 1973, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton.

Jerry then went to work for Willis Oil Tool for about six years as a shop foreman and then in expediting. He went to Grant MacEwan College for a couple of night courses for two month periods over two years and got certificates in Foremanship I and II.

During this time, they bought a lot in northeast Calmar and built a house. Jeanette's parents, Ed and Helen Dahlgren built a house across the street and helped Jerry build theirs in about 1975, or 1976. They were divorced in November, 1977. On November 1, 1977 Jerry had open-heart surgery at the University Hospital in Edmonton to replace a valve. His heart had been damaged when he had rheumatic fever as a young child.

On January 2, 1981, Jerry went to work for Masterflo Valve Inc., an oilfield manufacturing company. He is presently in charge of Inside Sales and sales to Australia, New Zealand, India and Pakistan. He took an evening course for Priorty Management that taught time management. As of January 2, 2000, he had been there for 19 years.

In 1978 he moved to Art Pahal's farm, west of the Edmonton Internal Airport on the Nisku-Devon highway, and rented a double wide mobile home there.

In March, 1990, Cristina Sacliwan Acfiawen landed at the International Airport from Hong Kong and wondered why anyone would want to live where there were all these dead trees sticking up. Being born and raised in the Philippines, she didn't know about snow, but she quickly found out. She was a nanny for neighbors of Colleen and Barry Strautman, and their kids played together, so Colleen got to know Cristina. She didn't know anyone and was lonely so Colleen told her that she had a single brother but Cristina was afraid to go out

with him. Finally they went to a show, love blossomed, and they were married on November 9, 1991, at Colleen and Barry's house in Leduc.

Cristina was born October 25, 1960, at Kadaclan-Barlig, Bontac, Mountain Province in the Philippines, and was raised by her grandparents in the mountains. She attended school at a convent and helped her grandparents grow rice, vegetables, and took care of the few animals they had. She took a secretarial course in the Philippines and again in Hong Kong, and a hairdressing course in Hong Kong where she worked as a companion/secretary for a couple who owned a toy company in Taiwan. She had to take her hairdressing course at Marvel School of Hairdressing, as Canada would not recognize her diploma from the Philippines. She is currently hairdressing at Hair Styling Elegance at West Edmonton Mall.

Jerry rented a house from Byron and Susan Beck east and south of Leduc for a number of years. In Octobetr, 1997, they bought a house north and west of Devon in the Woodbend area. There is a two car garage and a big shop, so Jerry is happy as he usually spends his spare time fixing someone's vehicle or mowing grass in their large yard. He plays pool one night a week in a league in Edmonton.

Sean Jerry was born February 12, 1998, at the Grey Nuns Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta.

Annette went to kindergarten, Grade 3 and 4 in Calmar. Grades 1 and 2 at Humble, half of Grade 4 and half of Grade 5 at Sherwood Park, grades 5 to 9 at JE Lapointe in Beaumont, and to St. Joseph's High School in Edmonton for grades 10 to 12. She went to Leduc Air Cadets for a few years and enjoyed the activities. She finished Grade 12 in Leduc and graduated there but picked up a couple of high school courses at Alberta College. She worked at Oil City Answering Service for about a year and a half, went to Banff for a couple of months and worked at the Ptarmigan Inn, but didn't like it there so came back to Oil City Answering Service. During most of this time she was a firefighter at Beaumont. She was a nanny in Beaumont for a couple monthjs and then went to Lethbridge to summer school. The University of Lethbridge was next, where she graduated in October, 1993. She got her Bachelor of Arts, majoring in sociology. While there, she did odd jobs waitressing, landscaping, working at Portrait Studio and volunteering at the hospital. She also worked for about one and a half years with handicapped people after completing University.

On June 15, 1996 she married Jason "Grant" Jervis iat his parents' farm at Chase, BC. Grant was born January 31, 1972, in Liverpool, England. He went to preschool at Carlton Avenue, Carlton, England. Infant 1 to Junior 1 (equivalent to kindergarten to Grade 3 here), he took Junior 2 and 3 (our grade 4 and 5) at Kellsall, England. He came to Canada with his family on November 25, 1982, to Yellowknife for six months in Grade 5, then to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for the rest of Grade 5 and part of Grade 6 at Caswell School. Then they moved to a small town north of Saskatoon and he took Grade 6 and into Grade 7. They moved to Edmonton Beach, Alberta and he was put back into Grade 6 and went to Grade 7 there too. He took Grade 8 to 11 at the Edmonton Academy. He also took a couple of University courses, one being psychology and two years of Automotive at NAIT. He lives at Maple Ridge, BC, for one and a half years when he was 17 years old. It was here that he was diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome. He lived at Sycamous from 1988 to 1993 and at Chase, BC, from 1993 to 1996, when he came back to Alberta. He worked at various jobs, the last being United Pipeline Systems for over two years. A few months ago he started with Coram construction.

Annette has worked on and off with handicapped people since 1993, the latest being Leduc Independent Living until she had their second child, Chase Steele Dawson on March 16, 1999, (his Grampa Jerry's 51st birthday). Their first son, Joshua Steele Gerry Jervis was born April 20, 1997 at the Grey Nun's Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta.

Grant and Annette have purchased an acreage about ten miles southwest of Tofield, and have worked hard fixing it up.

Sherry took all of her schooling at Beaumont. She loves horses and when she was about eleven, she started riding C.B. and then Image of Chocalate, an Arab, in dressage and stadium jumping, and Image in cross-country eventing. Her Grampa Doug wouldn't go watch her eventing because she scared him too much, and he was afraid she was going to get hurt. She won many ribbons, trophies and prizes. She went to Chicago, Illinois, in 1995, as a groom in the Young Riders Competition.

She took a dog grooming course and practices on her Great Dane, Dao. She has worked at various jobs, cleaning houses, landscaping supervisor, and at the International Airport for over two years as Flight Tech. She has started a new job, (January, 2000), and she presently lives in Leduc.

Alfred married Elaine Louise Johnson on September 1, 1984, and their son Cole Douglas Sidney was born May 22, 1984. They live north of Lindale.

Colleen went to school at Lindale up to Grade 5, from 6 to 11 in Calmar, and one semester of Grade 12 in Leduc. She had 15 credits received from her

music program with the Royal Conservatory of Music. She took up to Grade 9 in piano lessons and can play most instruments she picks up. She has a beautiful voice and she and Barry often sing for weddings. She sings in the Piatta Forma (means oil rig in Latin) Choir in Leduc.

From 1968 to 1978, Colleen and Barry were in a band that had three different names, Canadian Club, Sundown, and Oasis.

Colleen married Barry Lee Strautman on March 8, 1975 at the Peace Lutheran Church in Leduc, Alberta.

Barry was born July 28, 1955, at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, Alberta. Barry went to Humble School to Grade 7, Grade 8 to 11 in Calmar, and Grade 12 in Leduc. Barry worked for Travel Esso, Leduc in 1973, Hertz Rent a Car in 1973, Futurama Windows in 1974. He and his brother Dale, and their father Arne, owned a dairy farm in the Beaumont area in 1974-75, Willis Oil Tool 1975-79, his own business S.S. Service in Calmar 1979-80, Willis Oil Tool 1980-81, Masterflow Valve Inc. 1981-85, Nutron Manufacturing 1985-87 and in partnership in Frontier Valve International Ltd. 1987 to present.

Colleen worked at Dutch Mill Bakery to October, 1975, Leduc Meat Packers for six months from 1975-76, Town of Calmar 1976, Stedman's in Leduc 1976-77, Robinson's in Leduc 1977-78, Toronto Domonion Bank as a teller 1978-81, and Garry R. Knull Professional Corp. 1981-87.

They lived in a 4-plex in Edmonton from March to October 1975, for a little while in Leduc with Barry's parents Arne and Millie Strautman, in Calmar for a while with Colleen's Mom and Dad, and then rented a little house in Calmar from May 1976 to 1978. They bought a house on Huron Drive in Leduc and lived there from June 1978 to March 1989, when they had a beautiful home built in Lakeside Estates where they presently live at William Bradbury Place.

Tyler Arne Douglas Strautman was born April 13, 1987, at the University Hospital in Edmonton. He went up to Grade 6 at Leduc Estates School and is very involved in sports. He has played baseball, basketball, soccer and hockey, but is now mostly playing hockey and attending hockey camps in the summer. He loves to golf and snowboard. He is currently going to Leduc Junior High School in Grade 7.

Joel Christopher Strautman was born June 12, 1989, also at the University Hospital in Edmonton. He has played baseball, basketball, soccer and hockey, but is mostly involved in hockey.

Colleen and Barry are very involved with the boys' sports and school. Colleen enjoys quilting and has created many wonderful and beautiful ones.

I have enjoyed being part of this family and love them all very much. This has been quite a long story, but after doing the genealogy/family history that I have done, it is very important to get these facts and stories down in print for future generations.

CHAPTER EIGHT
Our Life in Pictures

ODE TO THE PEMBINA
By ALAN JAPLING
MOBIL GEOLOGIST

Mud, Mud, Mud
Slush, Slush, Slush
For this is the song
Of the Pembina rush.
We slide and we slip
In our 1954 truck
We yearn for a grip
But always get stuck
We fume and we froth
And curse our luck
But nothing we do
Will get us unstuck.
There's suicide corner
We all know so well
And a rickety bridge
That scares us like hell.
The graders, and cats
Do a good job
Hauling us out
Of bog after bog.
The drillers and roughnecks
Are wet to the shin
And due to shutdowns
Are all getting thin
No work, no money
It's certainly not funny
The muskeg and mud
Are taking their toll
While poor old Socony
Is waiting for oil.
Geologists are growling
The samples are bad
Engineers are howling
And all going mad.
Drillers are raving
For holes are caving
And the bull gang doth curse
While the weather grows worse.
Rain, Rain, Rain
The muskeg is sodden
Wherever is trodden
But it's no use complaining
It just keeps on raining
Thru all this we toil
For the sake of good oil.

THE BLOWOUT WELL
By Walter Turtiak

Amoco Dome Brazeau River well was to be drilled on LSD 11-12-48-12 W5M, however it was located very close to the Pembina River and in muskeg. Therefore, Amoco moved the surface location to LSD 13-12-48-12 W5 which was on high ground. This made it necessary for the well to be directionally drilled. In August 1982, Amoco applied to the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) for a license to drill this well, located about 20 km. West of Lodgepole, Alberta. Nabors E14 Drilling Rig was moved to the location which is located on the bank of Zeta Creek north of the Pembina River. They started to drill August 10, 1982, and drilled to about 3000 meters or about 9843 feet without any problems. Casing was installed to the expected productive formation. On October 15th, the drilling crew started to core into the productive zone. The first two cores were

Reg Ross took a busload of the media to see the Amoco Blowout, 1982

obtained without any problems. On October 16, they started to core number three but stopped coring when fluid was discovered from the formation. For the next sixteen hours, the crew tried to retain control of the well, but about 2:30 pm on October 17, the well blew out of control, blowing hydrogen sulfide (H2S) and its rotten egg odor into the atmosphere and surrounding areas.

On October 19, a crew of well control specialists from Wild Well arrived. Amoco had a trail dozed from lease 7-1-48-12, (which was the first blow-out well they had which was south of the Pembina River in January, 1977), built a ram out of gravel on each side of the river, rented a portable bridge about 80 feet or more from an outfit at Edson and had it installed over the river. It was a lot closer to get to the flowing well from the Elk River Forestry Road. There was an old logging road on the north side of the Pembina River, used during the 7-10 well blowout in 1977. After the well went out of control, Amoco had a security guard at Mile 8 of the Elk River Road, which is where the lease road turned towards lease number 7-10 and also to 13-12-48-12. They also had security guards on the road coming from the north to the lease. Every person who worked on the blowout well had to show an ID, which was his driver's license and vehicle registration. Nobody was allowed without permission. While the well was blowing out of control, it sprayed about 100 acres of timberland and also the Pembina River, with sulphur and condensate around the wellsite.

On November 1 at about 2:00 pm, the Blowout Preventers (BOP's) were opened to allow the drill pipe to drop down the hole. That is what Amoco was hoping for, but instead of the drill pipe dropping, it shot out of the hole, striking the monkey board in the derrick and in a few seconds the whole lease was on fire. The derrick collapsed shortly afterwards. Shortly afterwards, the burned drilling rig was removed off the wellsite. About 100 acres of burned timber was cleared and burned. A new lease was built north of the original one. Amoco was going to drill a relief well, but then changed their mind. It would have taken 2½ months to drill the relief well. It had to be drilled directionally and there was a possibility that they could miss. They hauled water with tank trucks and sprayed the places where the brush piles were burned to make sure there was no fire left.

On November 14th, the well fire was put out by using explosives. On November 16th, a large crane was used to lift the BOP over the wellhead while the well was blowing. During this attempt, an accident occurred. Two Wild Well firefighters were knocked down by the swing BOP while they were trying to get the BOP into position over the casing bowl, jarring their gas masks, which allowed H2S gas to enter under their masks. One man died on the lease and the other was transported to Drayton Valley Hospital, then to a hospital in the States, where he died.

Amoco Blowout December 23, 1982

For seven days after the accident, the well blew into the atmosphere. Then suddenly a fire started on November 25th, which they figured was started from a ground fire in the muskeg. It started east of the wellsite, burning the big crane and a D7 winch cat which was parked on the edge of the wellsite. Then Amoco chose to cap the well while on fire, which had only been successfully completed six times on smaller well fires. Wild Well declined to attempt this procedure. On December 1, the well control firm of Boots and Coots was hired to cap the well while on fire. After the condensate on the lease had burned, it was discovered that the extreme heat had damaged the casing bowl. The casing had to be cut off below ground level. They had to dig a trench about 8 feet deep and about 30 feet wide from the southwest to the northwest. First of all, the D8 cats had to have heat shields installed on top, both sides and back. Also the hydraulic rams were covered with metal sheeting to keep some of the heat off. It was a very dirty and hot job – workers had to wear ear plugs, face masks and goggles. Two cats would be digging the trench while the other two would be off the lease cooling off. After the trench was dug, cutting off of the casing bowl started on December 4th. They used two oil well service rigs to cut off the casing with a cable which was wrapped around the casing. One rig would wind the cable onto its drum until the drum was full. Then the other would do the same. It took them a few days to cut the casing bowl off, as they couldn't use the cutting torch because it would ignite the blowing gas. After the casing bowl was cut off, a new bowl was stripped over the casing stub and welded into place. The welders

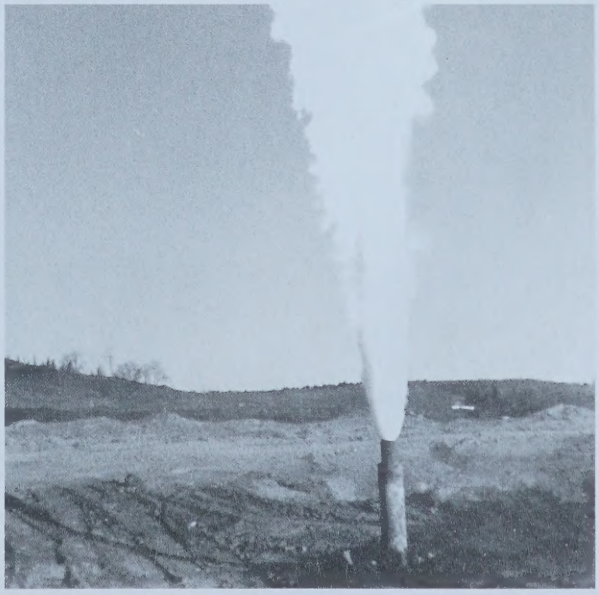
changed welding about every five minutes or so, due to the heat. Then there were problems with the long boom, which was mounted on tracks. It wasn't strong enough to hold that size of BOP, so it had to be reinforced. Then when they tried to lift the BOP up, it would lift up the back end of the cat So they took the big weight off the burned crane, which weighed quite a few tons, and put it on the hitch of the track boom. When they tried to pick up the BOP, the hitch broke. So they made a new stronger hitch, also reinforced the hitch on the cat. While they were trying out to see how it would work, an axle on the track boom broke. The wheels were taken off and taken to an Edmonton machine shop. Holes in the wheels were bored to bigger size and heavier axles put on. The reason why the equipment was breaking down was the track boom wasn't built to lift and transport that size of a BOP. When they were ready to try and cap the well, the wind changed and blew from the southeast, which meant they would have to work against the wind. Amoco waited for a few days, hoping the wind would change, but it didn't. Another trench was dug from the southeast to the northwest. They were going to try to put the BOP on from the southeast on December 23rd. During the night, the wind changed to the south west. On the morning of December 23, it was blowing fairly strong, which was what they needed. About 8 am, they started to get ready to install the BOP stack over the casing stub and have it bolted to the casing bowl. One cat had a big shield mounted on a long boom, which was placed over the BOP to shade off some of the heat while they were working. One cat had a platform welded on to the dozer, which held a compressor, and Boots stood on the edge giving orders while the BOP was moving towards the casing bowl on the blowing well. When the BOP was placed on the casing bowl and they were bolting the BOP down, one of the fire fighters got his hand pushed back against the casing bowl with an air wrench. When he saw his own blood, he fainted. He was dragged out by the paramedics, who removed the glove, bandaged his hand and took him to Drayton Valley Hospital by helicopter, where he was x-rayed. There were no broken bones, just badly bruised. Once the BOP was bolted down, a 6 inch flare line was bolted to the valve on the BOP which had many cement weights bolted on. Then we dozed a lot of dirt on the line to make sure that the line wouldn't be moved by the gas pressure.

The hydraulic lines from Halliburton truck were coupled up to the hydraulic blind rams on the BOP which were used to close the rams and stop the gas from blowing up in to the atmosphere. The kill lines were connected from the mud pumps to the BOP. Valves to the flare line were open. When everything was coupled up and ready, the operator on the Halliburton truck blew the horn and pulled on the hydraulic control lever to start closing the blind rams on the BOP. In a few seconds the fire was starting to die down and the fluid was converted to the flare pit where there was a small fire burning. Then the valves on the flare line were closed and the mud pumps started pumping mud into the well. The well was now under control at 2:30 pm on December 23, 1982.

It took 67 days to bring this well under control. The well was on fire for 41 days and for 26 days when the well wasn't on fire, it was blowing H2S poisonous gas into the atmosphere. While it was blowing, they could smell it in Calgary if the wind was blowing from the northwest, and Edmonton if it was blowing from the southwest. In the beginning of January, 1983, the lease was rebuilt and a drilling rig was brought in to complete the well.

After the well blew out of control and Wild Well Firefighters arrived on October 19, 1982, Amoco had a camera man filming everything that went on at the least. He had the camera set up on the roof of a bunkhouse to get a clearer view of the blowing well. This was from the old blowout well 7-10, which blew wild in January 1977, which is about 2 miles south of the Pembina River on a hill.

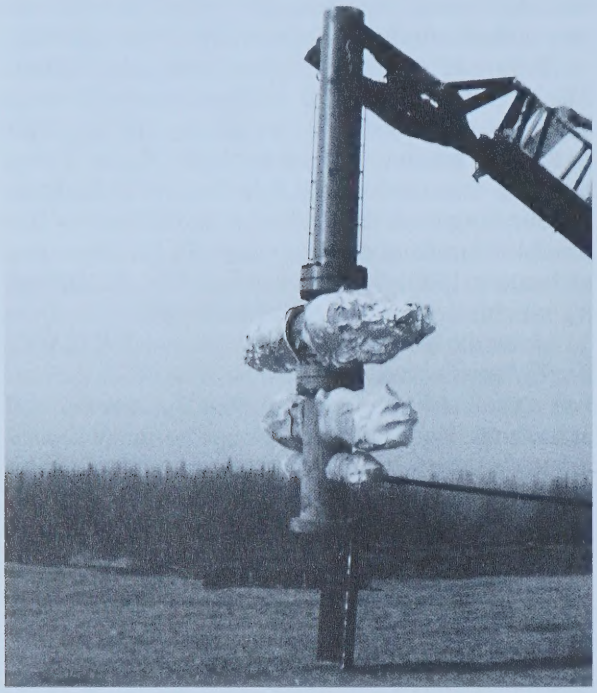
On November 1, he filmed the derrick where it shows the pipe going up past the top of the derrick. That is the drill pipe that hit the monkey board, which started the fire. Also where the drill pipe is in the air above the derrick, coming down. I cut these pictures out of the Lodgepole Blowout Inquiry Book.



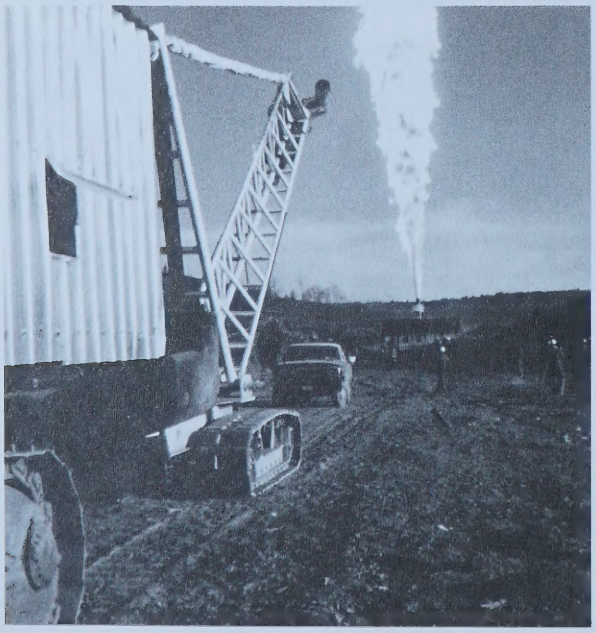
Amoco Blow out Well 13-12-48-12-5, December 1982 after the trench was dug

On December 1, after Boots and Coots were hired, he moved the camera to the well that was on fire and filmed almost everything that went on at the lease right up until the well was brought under control.

I operated a D8 cat for Joesting Construction for 40 days on this fire.



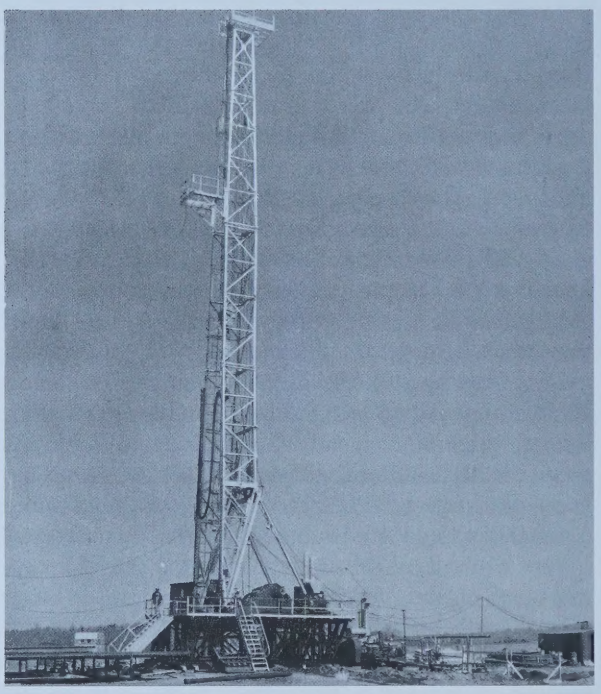
Blowout Preventer used on Amoco blowout well



Crane that was used to carry and install the Blowout Preventer over the fire

RIGS AND CREW

L-R, Walter Meston, motor man, (?), Dave (?), roustabout, Albert Levi, driller, Leon Klubarger, derrickman and unknown welder



Drilling rig

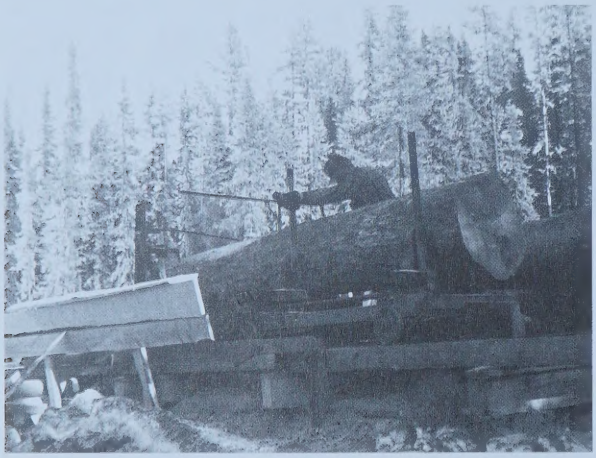
Drilling for oil November 1954

Evansburg 1955

Oil storage tanks 1955

SAWMILLS AND LUMBER CAMPS

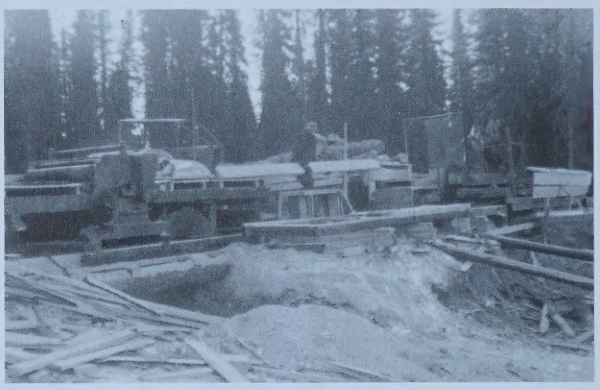
Morley Haggerty feeding the edger



Garry Johnson on log carriage

Jimmy Haggerty tailing the edgers and trimming the lumber

Logs on the rollway



Bill Robinson sawmill on Nelson creek before the area was flooded by the dam

Load of lumber at Propp's sawmill

Piled lumber

Propp sawmill

Propp's camp showing the cookhouse, office and store and riverbank

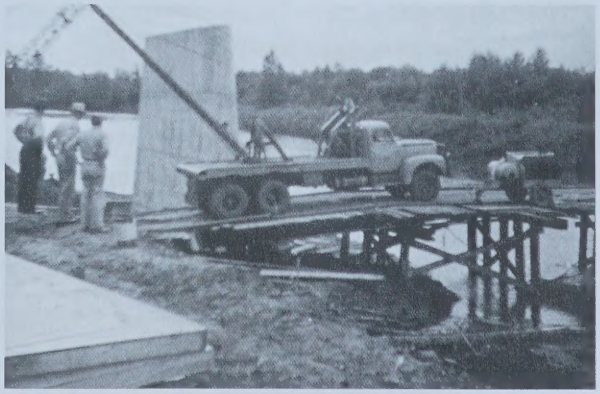
OUT OF TOWN PICTURES

Berrymoor Ferry

Jeffery's Post Office, Rocky Rapids

Early construction of bridge over the North Saskatchewan

Crossing on the ferry to Drayton Valley



Bridge construction over the Pembina River

PICTURE SECTION

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Rodeo committee 1961. L-R, Back Row, Keith Peterson, (?), Henry Deby, Claude Albert, Maurice McCullagh, Eric Edholm, Father Scriven. Front Row, (?). Steve Reddin, Ken Walters, (?), Ron Carter

Skating at north end of Rotary Park 1962

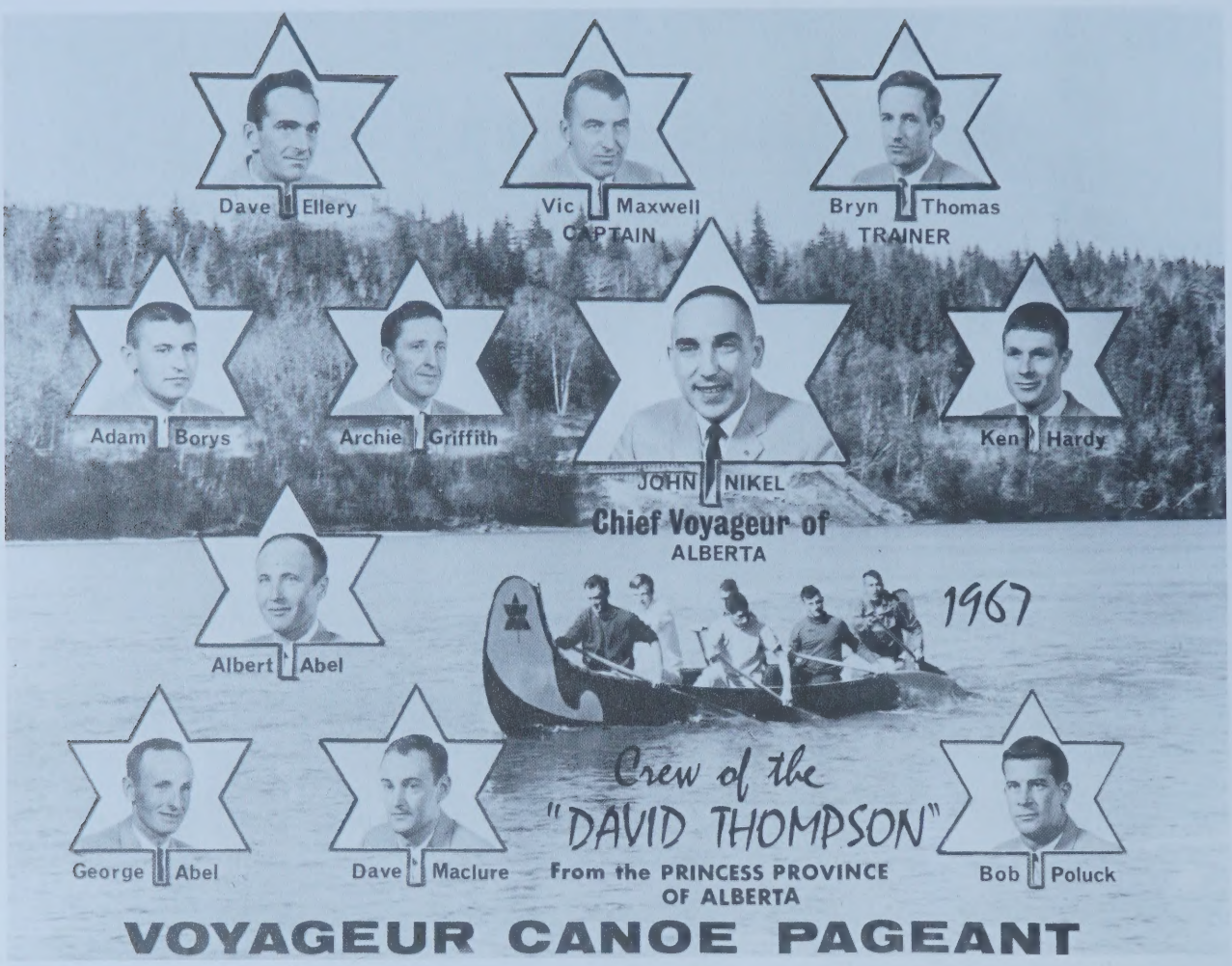
L-R, Front, Lorne Regnier, Reg Madsen, Terry Pickett, Wilf Zorn, Jerry Bills, Gordon Hart, Jerry Wilkes. Middle Row, Bruce Gossell, Jerry Hook, (?), Bruce Hutton, Bruce Hay, Lee Hurley, (?), Larry Wall. Top Row, (?) Brett Hammerlindl, Ian McLean, Gordon Neal, (?), Jay Meraw, (?)

D.V. Neptune Club 1963

Drayton Valley Community Band. L-R, Back, John Wahl, Al McKillop, Ken Auld, Frank Laub, Dave Ellery, Bill Wahl, Gordon Miller. Third Row, Neil Waugh, John Stang, Bev Johnson, Muriel Boles, Pat Jenkins, Arnold Lloyd, Rob Krause. Second Row, Karl Wahl (Bandmaster), Olie Edmundson, L. Samuelson, Ned Martell, John Byers, Herb Berger, Jack Oswald, Richard Devries, Don Fontana. Front Row, Linda Zelenak, Elda Langer, Louis Balen, Jennie Willner, Josie Dahlgren

Senior Citizens' Club 1973

Twilight Bowl. L-R, Back, Roy Cabel, Bud Pierlot, Elmer Schwab, Ian Dallas, (?), (?), (?), Adeline Swanland, Bill Snodgrass. Middle Row, Alex McKellar, Edna McKellar, (?), (?), Mary Debeau, Joyce Pierlot, Maureen Schwab, Eleanor Metzger, Dick Reisterer, Henry Metzger, (?), (?). Front Row, Pearl Getzinger, Norma Howatt, (?), Eve Snodgrass, Iris Hicks, Twili Getzinger, John Getzinger, Ron Howatt, Al Hicks



1968 Rose's Well Servicing Clippers. L-R, Front, Mike Gormley, Ken Halldorson, Ron Wilson, Terry Jevne, Orest Heyday. Middle, Neil Samis, Don Bouchard, Ken Herbert, Miles Cotton, Don Whelen. Back, Larry Wall, Jay Meraw, Lorne Regnier, Roger Bain, Jerry Wilkes

1962 Delphics Football Team. L-R, Front Row, Dennis Willner, Dwayne Swendseid, Allan Anderson, Rolf DeGeest, Glen Anderson, Jack Goubault, Warren Bittorf. Middle, Barry Rosenberger, John Bright, Bill Wall, Fritz DeGeest, Ken Sieben, Lenard Raulic, Gary Mastre. Back, Gordie Vasiliff, Werner Baum, Ed Hutzal, Dave Joyce, Gerald McMorris, Clifford Lindskoog

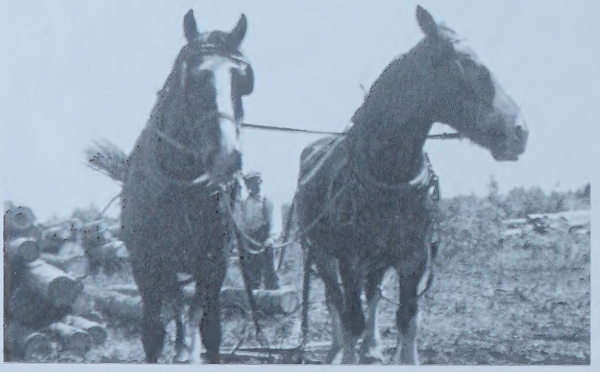
Pembina Pipe Hockey Team. L-R, Back, Sid Mitchell, Bill Ward, Keith Fuhr, Tom Sieben, Ken Mitchell, Bill Hamilton, Dave Hoff, Dave Pattison and Ken McMorris. Front, Bill Lovell, Gerald McMorris, Teddy Sieben, Brian Bannard, Gord Tucker and Dave Joyce

Raft Race, Blowout Days, 1978. Center Raft, Al Simla, Bob Strand, Robert Kitching, Jim Waldern

GENERAL PICTURES

The Schmidts haying

Threshing, 1938



Baldy and Buck skidding logs to the sawmill

August Schmidt with 2 bottom walking plow and a 4 horse hitch

August Schmidt cutting grain 1946

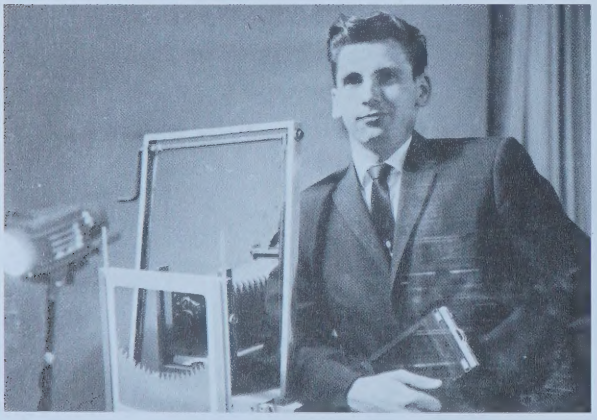
L-R, Front, Beverly and Elmer Schmidt. Back, Sharon and Lura

Evertt Brandt hauling bundles with oxen 1930

Brazeau Forestry Tower

First horse to haul mail from Drayton Valley to Violet Grove was owned by Matt Burnett

Jack Tucker served 1914-18 in England and France



Peter Jacobs in his studio

Peter Jacobs' Construction first company truck, a 1953 International

Peter Jacobs' car after being pulled through the mud

Glen Sparks, Mrs. Jack Tucker, Mrs. Sparks, Mr. Sparks, Darleen and Gordon Tucker in front of the D.V. post office

D.V. Ball team 1938. L-R, Back Row, Les Tucker, Russ Schultz, Dan Bills, Carl Peterson, Buster Hadley. Front Row, Robert Johnson, Lawrence Morin, George Deathrage, Bjorie Hystad

North Saskatchewan River, north of the bridge, flooding in 1972

Leslie Tucker served 1942-46

Search party that looked for Harold Guze, 1941

Sawmill operation in 1925

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